



Ramsgate Salvation Army

Love God
Love Others

Sunday 11th December 2022

A warm welcome as we gather as the family of God today,
especially if you are not normally with us on a Sunday.
May we all feel the welcome of God and each other.

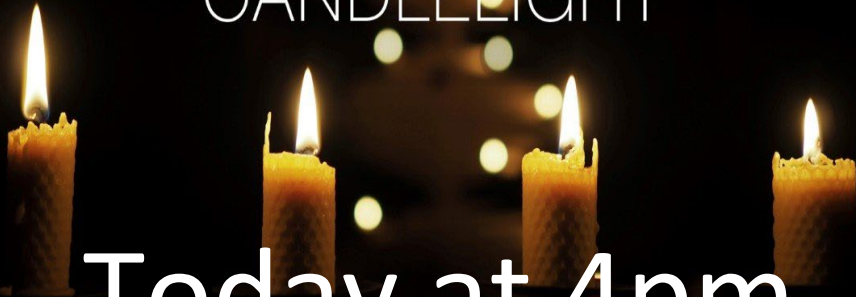
We meet at The Salvation Army Hall Sunday 10.30 am.

Also Sunday worship is livestreamed on  **YouTube**

You can find a link on the Ramsgate Salvation Army Web page

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/ramsgate

Carols by
CANDLELIGHT



Today at 4pm



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What's happening at Ramsgate Salvation Army?

Sunday 11th December	10.00 am Prayers 10.30 am Peace of Prayer The meeting will be led by Major John From 11.00 Sunday school 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight
Monday to Friday (6.30am-9am)	Breakfast Drop-in
Monday (9.30 am – 11.30 am)	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler group)
Monday (1pm)	ACES and Pastoral Care
Tuesday (9am to 11am)	Food Parcel Preparation
Tuesday	Prayers (09.30) The Well (10.30) Light Lunch (12 noon)
Tuesday (13.00 pm)	Bible Study at hall (1pm)
Heather and Major John at Dickens Court	3pm
Carl and Heather at Tesco WWX carols for Shelter Support	4.30pm
Tuesday (7.00 pm)	Bible Study by ZOOM (7pm)
Wednesday (from 10 am)	Friendship Club and Lunch Club
Wednesday (7pm)	Band at Homefleet
Thursday	Carl at Elmley
Carl and Heather at carols for Reading Street	7pm
Friday (10am - 12 noon)	Food Bank War Cry Sales Literacy Classes Ukrainian English Language Class KIDS Club
Friday (6.00pm)	
Saturday 17 th	Band in Broadstairs Town centre Ukrainian Drop-In
Sunday 18 th	Sunday Worship 10.30 Spreading Peace 4pm Christmas Celebration .

PLEASE BOOK IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday 11th December

When I say peace, I don't simply mean the absence of conflict or animosity. I mean the presence of joyful tranquillity and as much richness of interpersonal communication as you are capable of: a back-and forth-richness and sweetness — open, free, sweet, eyeball-to-eyeball, no-agenda peace. That is what we are after.

Key to Peace

So let's look at these. Let's start with the key. There is more than one. The key to each of these three relationships of peace is keeping together what the angels kept together: glory to God and peace to us (Luke 2:14). If you say, "I don't have any interest in, love for, admiration of, treasuring of the glory of God; I just want the peace," then you won't get it. You can't separate the two. The angels won't let you. God won't let you. God's purpose is to give you peace by being the most glorious person in your life.

Five times in the New Testament, God is called "the God of peace" (Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20). Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). And Paul said, "[Jesus] himself is our peace" (Ephesians 2:14). Therefore, if you say, "I want the peace; I don't want the glorious God. I want the peace; I don't want the sovereign Jesus," then you won't have the peace. He will be our peace by being our God. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace." The angels have it right. The angels keep it together. If we want peace to rule in our lives, God must rule in our lives. He himself is our peace.

So the key to peace is glory to God and peace to men kept together. A heart bent on showing the glory of God will know the peace of God. What holds these two together? A heart that is bent on glorifying God, making much of God, displaying the beauty of God, admiring God, treasuring God, cherishing God, hallowing God's name, and enjoying tranquillity and peace and candour and openness and readiness to forgive, and receptive hearts — not pushing people away, but welcoming people in, even long-lost enemies? What keeps those together? Faith. Believing the promises of God bought by the blood of Jesus.

And there is a key text. It is so precious in my life. I love this text — just a little simple verse from Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." I don't think it could be much clearer. How will I enjoy joy and peace from the God of hope? How will I? What connects me to that God and his peace? In believing, by believing, through believing, the promises bought by the blood of Jesus. That will be another key as we look at each of these relationships.

Monday 12th December

Open and Clear with God

Peace with God is foundational to all other peace. If you try to make peace with your mind and your heart and all the guilt and anxiety that comes again and again without that peace, and if you try to hold a family together and to make peace at work, you will maybe achieve some brief superficial measures, but it won't last — especially into eternity. All peace inwardly and peace outwardly is based on this vertical experience of: Do I have peace with God? Is it open and clear with God? Are we friends?

The key text, as you might guess where I would go, is Romans 5:1: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith [by believing], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Having been justified by faith — believing, trusting him and all of his promises to me — I have peace.

So just a word on justification again: Justification, being justified, means God declares you just. God declares you right, righteous, pure, perfect, acceptable. He does. He declares you that. How? I am not just. No, that is the gospel. Through faith, faith in Jesus — the foundation, the purchaser, the blood provider of all the promises. I believe in Jesus, and when I believe, I am united to Jesus. And what Jesus was, he was for me. And God looks upon his righteousness as mine and his punishment as mine. Therefore, in spite of all my sins, God is my friend.

This is the difference that it makes when Christ comes into the world, dies for our sins, provides our perfection. We believe. We trust him. God says, “Justified. Peace.”

Tuesday 13th December

Christ in Our Place

Lots of people come to church on this weekend who don't usually come to church. They are not interested necessarily in Christ and the Bible and salvation and justification, all these things. I just want to say something really clear after trying to say what that peace with God is through Jesus. It is not by our deeds. It is not by our tradition, whether Baptist or Catholic or Lutheran or Methodist or Salvationist. It is not by baptism. It is not by church membership. It is not by piety. It is not by parentage. It is by faith alone.

This is the core of our gospel: Christ died in our place. Christ provided an alien righteousness for us that is not ours, and Christ bore our punishment, and he offers it to every single human being. And it is received by faith alone. And when that faith

happens, we are united with him and his righteousness is ours, and we have peace with God. And there isn't anything sweeter to go to bed on.

Wednesday 14th December

In hope the universe waits:
God's peace shall be revealed.

Limited by mortality, yet destined for liberation,
In hope the universe waits:
God's peace shall be revealed.

Groaning as if in childbirth,
Sampling the fruits of God's harvest,
In peace the universe waits:
God's peace shall be revealed.

Trusting in what is unseen,
Believing the best to come
In hope the universe waits:
God's peace shall be revealed.

Thursday 15th December

Admit it. What songwriters call "the most wonderful time of the year" can also be "the most stressful time of the year." And when tension runs high in the home and mom is stressed, everyone is stressed.

And when we focus on our finances (Do we really have to spend that much this year?), or our full schedules (Do we really have to be in that many places?), or that inevitable weight gain that happens this time of year (Do I really weigh that much, after only one glass of Shloer?), we set the tone in our home for a not-so-blessed time of year.

Pushing Stress Out of Your Life

But, stress and anxiety don't have to invade your heart and home like unwanted guests this Christmas. In fact, we can push stress out of our hearts and minds altogether so that we'll anticipate the holidays with a quiet heart and get through them feeling refreshed, refuelled and rejuvenated. That's what I want. And I think

you do, too. Here are five things I've learned through the years that help me experience a stress-free, peace-filled Christmas.

1. Rely on God for your emotional support.

With so much to do to prepare for the holidays, it's natural for us to rely on people around us to notice when we're overwhelmed and offer a helping hand, or just lend some encouragement and support.

The reality of you and me expecting others to appreciate us or come to our emotional aid at this time of year is that everyone else around us is as busy as we are.

During these times, God has the best listening ear.

Scripture says God understands our thoughts while they're still far away (Psalm 139:2); He is a refuge for us when we need to pour out our hearts to Him (Psalm 62:8); and there is nowhere we can go—physically or emotionally—where He is not right there with us (Psalm 139:7-12).

When we look to others to understand what we're going through, we are often disappointed. When we depend on others for emotional support or a kind word to keep us going, we tend to feel let down. We tend to put a burden on them that they often can't meet.

But God, your Maker and Sustainer, knows and understands what you're feeling. Go to Him in prayer throughout the day. Talk to Him about how you feel. Rely on Him for what you need. And be refreshed knowing He hears, He cares and He understands.

Friday 16th December

2. Refresh yourself in God's Word.

I am convinced that if I don't go to God's Word first in the morning, I won't get anything done. I also realise if I don't spend at least some time in God's Word each day, I am a mess. I've found, especially at this time of the year, that Scripture can be a spiritual source of energy to get me through the day.

Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness." That means reading Scripture is like getting a breath of fresh air from the Living God.

Start in the Psalms. Read of the songwriters' depression or anguish or complacency. See how they work through it by recalling Who God is and how He is worthy of praise. While many of the songwriters start a song flat on their faces in pity, they end on their feet in praise. Their focus on God gave them the energy to get up off the floor and onto their feet.

It can do the same for you and me if we struggle with even getting out of bed! Fuel yourself by getting into God's Word—even if it's just reading a Psalm a day—and see if God doesn't breathe His life and rest into your day that calms your heart and soul.

Saturday 17th December

3. Refocus on rest.

Rather than thinking of all you have to do this season, can you consciously slow down long enough to remember why (if there is a reason) everything needs to get done?

Christmas was never meant to be a time of busyness, stress, long lines and packed to-do lists. Instead, it's a time to slow down and reflect on the greatest gift that we have received—the gift of a Saviour.

The Bible instructs us to "be still, and know I am God" (Psalm 46:10, NIV). That verse, in context, was a reminder to God's people that in the true knowledge of God and His deliverance, there is peace, in contrast to the troubled nations that didn't know God or His deliverance.

If you and I know God, and His deliverance through His Son, Jesus, we can know peace in a way that the rest of the world can't imagine. In the New American Standard Bible, that verse reads: "Cease striving and know that I am God."

Can you and I "cease striving" to do all we think we must do and remember that simply knowing God (and the fact that He has delivered us from the punishment of our sin) amounts to peace and rest? And that peace is not just in eternal matters. If you and I can trust God with our eternal life, certainly we can trust Him with our everyday life. To rest is to trust Him in all things. And to trust Him in all things is to rest.



Flowers for this week – thanks to Helen
A NEW LIST FOR 2023 is now available

Birthdays

Jackie Sims	Sunday 11 th December
Sarah Connor	Wednesday 14 th December
Julie Pearce	Wednesday 14 th December
Nicole Cox	Thursday 16 th December
Ella Davies	Friday 17 th December



We pray for our Divisional Leader, **Major Linda Herbert** who will soon undergo surgery to remove a tumour. We pray for successful treatment and a full recovery.

We pray for the family and friends – including our friends at St Mark’s following the unexpected death of Carol Bean.

We continue to pray for Isobel who, although now home, is far from well. For Peter Ford who is also home but in need of prayer. For Anne Nicolson who is also unwell We pray for Dan Barker who is in a critical condition in QEQM having contracted pneumonia and other complications while rough sleeping.

For Doreen Dyer who is awaiting tests following her recent on-going illness. God, remove her fear. Pauline’s daughter Rebecca who is waiting for an urgent appointment in January.

We continue to pray for Hollie’s nan, Fay, who is struggling with severe breathing difficulties.

We continue to uphold Jan Penfold in prayer who is still waiting for surgery and suffering a lot at this time. Continue to pray for Barry Davies now receiving support in a Cliftonville care home, for Ivor, (Tracy’s dad and Isaiah’s grandad) for Angela’s sister, Teresa, who continues her radiotherapy treatment.

We pray for Paul, a friend of Douglas as he starts experimental new treatment. And his friend Chris and he mourns the loss of his sister.

For the new hall development plans, children’s and youth ministry. Our new youth worker – advert soon to go live - location for homeless shelter pods and the Green Pastures project.....and REVIVAL.