

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 24th May 2020

Read through this outline and join with everyone else at 11 am

HYMN MP 60 (to read or sing)

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers,
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear
And often for each other flows,
The sympathizing tear.

When for a while we part,
This thought will soothe our pain,
That we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives
And longs to see the day

From sorrow, toil and pain
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

PRAYER *(It would be good if you said this out aloud)*

*O Lord God so gracious, from everlasting to everlasting.
How we worship You, for You alone are worthy to be praised
We bring to you all those things and situations that only You can resolve.
Give us the faith to trust You with the struggles and the upsets
we are facing right now.
As we meet together this morning help us to sense Your Presence.
Thank You for Jesus. Thank You that You care about us.
Thank You that You give us hope joy and peace.
Lord I ask you to bless and help(put a name (s) and meet
their every need in the Name of Jesus !*

AMEN

You may like to say the Lord's prayer also.

BIBLE VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Romans 1:8-11

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you"(v8)

THE IOU

What we owe each other!

The strictness of the lockdown and the police powers, along with the intention to constrain the over70's to isolation until at least Christmas or possibly even later have caused me to think of some of the obligatory restrictions in Scripture. There are several instructions as to what we can do for one another. Paul sets out three things we are obliged to do.

1 PRAY FOR EACH OTHER. *"I mention you always in my prayers " (v9)*

You can show no greater concern and love than to say *"I am praying for you"* and THEN DO IT. Prayer invites God into every situation, it authorises the resources of heaven to get busy, to bring about change and help. YET let's face it, much of the time we do not know what problems people are dealing with or what they are going through. Paul asked God to give Timothy three things *" may God give you grace, mercy and peace "*

(1Tim.1:2) So when you are not sure how to pray for someone ask God to give **them** His grace, His mercy and His peace. Think about that.

2 STRENGTHEN EACH OTHER *"impart to you some spiritual gift so that you may be established" (v11)*

What was Paul's longing - simply to strengthen his fellow believers. Constantly we have to let one another know the answer to each and every situation is God Himself coming to our aid. Have you ever done something like this? Just occasionally I place my mobile phone on charge, walk away but never switch on the power socket. It was in the right place but not connected to the power source. Being in church is not enough - my task is to help you get connected to the power of God. That is how we are strengthened.

With Easter still fresh in our minds who ever would have noticed or been interested in a donkey tied to a tree. Remember on that Palm Sunday journey Jesus on His way to Calvary simply said "*Bring it to Me*". If you are challenged just say "*the Lord has need of it*" (Luke 19:34)

Let ME tell YOU again - the LORD NEEDS YOU and WE DO TOO.

3 ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER *"that you and I might be mutually encouraged by each other's faith (v12)*

God help us to see the big picture regarding what is important in our lives. God is so good to us we ought to encourage each other with the simple truth of how "*we are complete in Him*" (Colossians 2:10) Remember Job ? His troubles lasted about a year and in that year he lost his children, his family, his health so he prayed "*Oh! that I knew where to find Him (23:3)*" We could tell him. Where two or three of us are gathered in His Name "*you find He is right there in the midst*" (Matthew 18:19,20). Life does not stand still, there will always be challenges. Don't lose your confidence in God. Bill West had a great word of encouragement with his constant "*it will come to pass*" Go on encouraging one another with that. **DPS**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

One song can spark a moment; one flower can wake a dream.

One tree can start a forest; one bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship; one handclasp lifts a soul.

One star can guide a ship at sea; one word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation; one sunbeam lights a room.

One candle wipes out darkness; one laugh can conquer gloom.

One step can start a journey; one word can start a prayer.

One hope can raise our spirits; one touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom, one heart can know what's true.

One life can make a difference; you see .. IT'S UP TO YOU.

Author/poet is unknown - I came across it in December 2017