

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 10th May 2020

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

HYMN (to read or sing)

MP 249

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him
Who brings good news, good news
Proclaiming peace, announcing news of happiness,
Our God reigns, our God reigns!
Our God reigns, our God reigns,
Our God reigns, our God reigns!

You watchmen lift your voices joyfully as one,
Shout for your King, your King.
See eye to eye the Lord restoring Zion;
Your God reigns, your God reigns!
Your God reigns, your God reigns,
Your God reigns, your God reigns!

Ends of the earth see the salvation of your God
Jesus is Lord, is Lord.
Before the nations He has bared His holy arm;
Your God reigns, your God reigns!
Your God reigns, Your God reigns,
Your God reigns, your God reigns !

MP 570

Reign in me, Sovereign Lord , reign in me. (x2)
Captivate my heart ,let Your Kingdom come,
Establish there Your throne, let Your will be done.
Reign in me, Sovereign Lord, reign in me (x2)

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

Our glorious, gracious God, our heavenly Father, everlasting, unchanging.

How we worship You, for You alone are worthy to be praised.

*Another week has come and gone and You have watched over us,
blessed us day by day, given us strength to cope with the struggles
and the upsets caused by this terrible pandemic.*

*As we meet together this morning help us to sense
You are with us in the many different places we find ourselves.*

Thank You for Jesus - He is a wonderful Saviour and Friend.

Thank You for the assurance 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

Psalm 97 *(read the whole Psalm)*

" The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad, let distant shores rejoice"(v1)

"Hallelujah - for our Lord God Almighty reigns " Revelation 19:6

DOES HE ?

We live in a world filled with pain and suffering, disasters, hardship and death. How these past weeks of the Covid-19 virus have simply reinforced that view. Yet despite everything that happens in your life and mine we need to know for sure - God IS in control. Nothing happens without Him knowing about it and our realising He has a purpose for everything. The Psalmist wants us to know - no matter the circumstances around us or the feelings within us - **the Lord reigns.**

UP THERE !

In our somewhat chaotic world it appears questionable. Just look at the headlines on any day as events in our lives spiral and spin so easily out of control. We are unsure of what decisions we ought to make. Or the decisions made by others - the lockdown is a classic example as we have to live with the downside effects of decisions and actions made by others.

The Psalmist wants us to know, to have this fundamental confidence "*The Lord reigns*" Can you recall the chorus we used to sing ?

"God is STILL on the throne and He will remember His own.

Though trials may press us and burden distress us.

He never will leave us alone. God is still on the throne!

His promise is true - He will not forget you, God is STILL on the throne"

OUT THERE !

The Psalmist emphasises that only those who " *dwell in Zion and the villages of Judah*" know that He is "*most high over all earth*" (vv8,9). Do we recognise that? He is over all the difficulties in our lives. In this small plot on planet earth called Rochford. Do you get the picture the Lord reigns high over ALL the earth. God is not remote, far away, beyond our reach. It does not matter what the circumstances are. Mourning the dreadful loss of life, how people have lost their jobs. How concerned and worried we are about our children and the school problem. How all the other physical problems are seemingly being pushed to one side and neglected in the darkness of these days. He knows all about you and He loves you. He is out there to take you by the hand and lead you out of the darkness and lead you into His wonderful light. This is how you will find peace. See verse 11 "*light is shed for*

RIGHT HERE !

Because He reigns we will get through all these things Yes! "Through"!

"THROUGH the Red sea onto dry ground (Exodus 14:22)

"THROUGH the valley of the shadow of death (Psalm 23:7)

"His path led THROUGH the sea (Psalm 77:19)

"when you pass THROUGH the waters I will be with you, THROUGH the rivers they shall not overflow you. When you walk THROUGH the fire you will not be burned" (Isaiah 43:2)

It will not be painless. It will not be quick. BUT it will be certain. We will get through this. Someone from UP there must come OUT there to RIGHT HERE to give us a hand - that Someone is Jesus. Why?

Because there is no place **up there, out there** or **right here** where **HE does not reign and rule.**

Pastor David