

"Father I place into your hands..." is a song we sing, in which the verses speak of entrusting the things we cannot do as well as our family and friends, to the Lord

3. Take time to meditate on God's Word

"...they received the message with great eagerness and examined the scriptures every day..." (Acts 17.11)

The Bereans were commended for their attitude towards God's Word. They took seriously every word – every day.

How else can we know the truth from the lies in our world?

In changing times – God is unchanging and His Word lasts forever.

4. Take time to serve

"Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today..." (Hebrews 3.13a)

God doesn't make mistakes. 2020 is not a mistake, wasted and without use. Every day may have difficulties but also has opportunities – to serve, help and encourage others.

Unlike Esther, we may not have much influence but we know one who does and brings eternal deliverance – Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Can you speak of Him this week? Can you show others through your actions what He means to you?

Pastor Andrew

BENEDICTION

"Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unploughed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you" (Hosea 10.12)

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

Church at Home

Sunday 28th June 2020

Join with everybody at 11am in reading through this outline

HYMN (*Read or Sing*)

Take time to be holy, speak oft with Thy Lord;

Abide in Him always, and feed on His word.

Make friends with God's children, help those who are weak;

Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;

Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone –

By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be!

Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy guide;

And run not before Him, whatever betide;

In joy or in sorrow still follow thy Lord,

And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul;

Each thought and each temper beneath His control;

Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,

Thou soon shall be fitted for service above.

CHORUS (*read or sing*)

Yesterday, today, for ever, Jesus is the same;

All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name!

Glory to His name! Glory to His name!

All may change, but Jesus never, Glory to His name!

PRAYER

Our Loving Heavenly Father, Eternal and most glorious God,
We draw near with confidence because of your Son's rescuing work for us.
Forgive us our sins. (The things we have thought and done, as well as the things we have failed to think and do.)

I come to you to praise and worship you. Draw near to all who worship you in "Spirit and Truth" this day. Thank you for all your blessings in life and for eternal life – through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Help our world to see what You have done for them through Him.
Have mercy upon our world at this time. Bring an end to lockdown and an antidote to the Co-vid Virus. Comfort those who mourn, heal the sick and strengthen your Church in our on-going mission of sharing the gospel with the world.

Help our leaders to be wise. May righteousness exalt our nation, bring healing to our broken communities, to families and to our hearts.

In Jesus Name and for His glory we ask these things. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, amen.*

BIBLE VERSES FOR TODAY

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23.6)

"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God'. My times are in your hands" (Psalms 31.14-15a)

"Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world he now showed them the full extent of his love" (footnote: He loved them to the last) (John 13.1b)

"Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4.14)

"For such a time as this...?"

Half of 2020 is almost over! What a strange year it has been, so far. Many began the year reflecting on "2020 vision" – but not many saw the way the last three months have been. These certainly are strange times. None of us has been through such times before. Yet God is with us in these times without a doubt. He will see us through these times.

Esther's times were strange times. The Jews were in exile, and Persia was the new Superpower. Esther was chosen to be the replacement Queen, one of God's people who became a people under threat of persecution. God's name is not mentioned in the book of Esther but He is there, at work, in the midst of the circumstances bringing deliverance to His people, but Esther has to do her part. How bold and brave she was to speak up before the King and address the injustice of Haman's actions (the enemy of God's people).

What are we to be doing during these strange times?

1. Take time to praise

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118.24)

Everyday in lockdown is a gift from God. He is worthy of praise whatever the circumstance. Remember Paul and Silas in the jail at Philippi – in the inner cell, in stocks...in praise!

2. Take time to pray

"My times are in your hands..." (Psalm 31.15)

What a comfort it is to know every day is known by the Lord and we can entrust the events of each day to him.