

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 7th June 2020

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

HYMN MP 257 (to read or sing)

I am not skilled to understand
What God has willed, what God has planned.
I only know at His right hand
Stands One who is my Saviour.

I take Him at His word indeed,
"Christ died for sinners" this I read
And in my heart I find a need
Of Him to be my Saviour.

That He should leave His place on high
And come for sinful men to die,
You count it strange? So once did I,
Before I knew my Saviour.

And O that He fulfilled might see
The glory of His life in me
And with His work contented be
As I with my dear Saviour.

Yea, living, dying, let me bring
My life to Him an offering,
That He who lives to be my King
Once died to be my Saviour.

Chorus

All your anxiety, all your care, bring to the mercy seat,
Leave it there. Never a burden He cannot bear,
Never a Friend like Jesus

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

*O Lord God so gracious, unchanging and eternal
You alone are worthy to be praised.*

*This is the day You have made so equip us with the strength,
and the faith to trust You with the struggles and the upsets
we are facing right now.*

*Strengthen us when we are weak, comfort us when we are
sad and distressed, forgive us when we choose to go our own way
and do our own thing*

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 VERSE FOR THE WEEK

1 Peter 5: 7

"Casting all your care on Him, for He careth for you"

HOME CARE or CARE AT HOME !

We are aware of the fact that life doesn't always run smoothly and calmly. In stressful times such as we are encountering people from all levels of society experience fear, uncertainty and anxiety. Consequently people often rely on sedatives, drugs, alcohol to relieve their tension. Numerous suggestions are being made as to what physical exercises and kinds of things will supposedly help us. It is a fact that the bigger the burden you are carrying, the bigger your need becomes for someone you can utterly trust and who will never forsake you and let you down. God is the only One who has this qualification. He wants only the best for you and He alone has the ability to replace the bad with good, sorrow with joy, tears with a smile. So I want to remind you **HE CARES FOR YOU BUT ...**

1 Some folk are careLESS

"the city that dwelt carelessly .. how she is become a desolation" Zeph.2:15

Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah.. Just like now they were tough times in which to live and minister. Assyria was losing its power, the Scythians were invading from the North, the Babylonians had become the leading empire. Manasseh had led Judah deeper and deeper into idolatry. Josiah lay dead on the battle field. Zephaniah's great theme was " get

ready for the coming day of the Lord" But all He could see were people living carelessly - without any regard for the Lord.

Is it any different now ? Accidents are caused by carelessness. Financial loss is brought about by careless living. Right across our nation so many are careless about spiritual things. Sad to say Christians are often careless about their prayer life and their service for God. Zephaniah warns it is time to be concerned and to know. *"the Lord your God is with YOU, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will rejoice over you with singing "* (3:17,18) (A very poignant verse heavily marked in my Bible - an absolutely remarkable truth and experience).

2 Some folk are careFUL

"Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer" (Philippians 4:6)

Where do we find strength during these moments of crisis, moments that are inevitably a part of our lives? Where you look and where you go for strength is so important because it determines the quality of your life. If you depend on your own strength or look for it in the world around you, not only will you be disappointed, eventually you collapse under the strain. Remember when David fell out of favour with the people and even his own soldiers were so angry that they wanted to stone him - *David found strength in the Lord (1 Samuel 30) Isaiah 40:29 reminds us "He (God) gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the faint".*

3. Some folk are careFREE

***"stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free" Galatians 5:1
"it is for freedom Christ has made me free" (NIV)***

It is about finding the courage and strength to keep going no matter what. To hang on in simple trusting faith, just taking Jesus Christ at His word even when we feel most lonely and vulnerable (*I happen to think especially then*) It takes courage to follow the Lord consistently, faithfully, to do it step by step. It is a total commitment to God that will liberate us. When you are sad and uncertain then trust in God will bring tranquillity and peace. He will give you grace to stand firm, Grace that will make you able to approach each day with contentment, joy and peace even in the midst of all the uncertainty, disappointment and tension of life in Covid-19 days.

Do not ever forget HE CARES FOR YOU.

DPS

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

My father (A Dublin man - so he was an Irishman to the core) used to say what was called an Irish blessing.

"May the road rise with you.

May the wind be behind your back.

And may the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand"

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

By the time you read this the funeral service for Valerie Russell has taken place. The service Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 2:40 pm at Southend Crematorium was required to be limited to family and close friends with a maximum ten persons in attendance. Many paid their tributes on the Whats App Chat and others then came to stand outside the church to watch and clap the cortege as it passed by. The service was streamed on line and through the internet. It meant a hugh amount of last minute planning and activity especially by Caroline Starling. Thank You to Caroline and everyone for your participation in what was a quite difficult service to conduct. We were not allowed to sing a hymn but we did listen to *"I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me."* I wanted everyone to know that it was in fact a summary of the spiritual journey taken by Valerie. Based on Revelation 15:2,3 *"I looked and saw what was like a sea of glass ... those who had been victorious held harps given them by God ... they sang the song of the Lamb"* Valerie sang this particular Sankey song because it tells of the Saviour who died for us. We were lost until Jesus found us. We were bruised and He healed us. He is with us through dark days and He keeps us until the end. And as far as Valerie is concerned that is just what Jesus did!

CHURCH RENOVATION

The carpet for the Sanctuary arrived from the manufacturer as soon as the Company opened its doors and following the Bank Holiday weekend the carpet fitters set about their task. For anyone wondering why the skip in the church car park - it was there to take the rubbish/old carpet away. We are still waiting for the windows - that manufacturer is having problems with the social distancing rule at the factory.