

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 12th July 2020

FACING THE FUTURE

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

HYMN MP 52 (to read or sing)

God sent His Son
They called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived, and died, to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there
To prove my Saviour lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a new born baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days
Because He lives.

And then one day, I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He lives.

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

*O Lord God our gracious, heavenly Father
You alone are worthy to be praised.*

*Everything seems to be getting more difficult
And we wonder when will it all end.*

Thank you that you never change

Thank You for Jesus He is a wonderful Saviour

Thank you for what He did for us upon the cross of Calvary.

*Give us the strength. and the faith to trust You
with the struggles and the upsets*

we are facing right now.

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

Deuteronomy 31:8

" The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged" (NIV)

FACING THE FUTURE

Everyone is clamouring for the lockdown to end so, we can start again. So many sad things belong to the past months. Yet somehow for so many of us we have hidden safely - I say it like that because it has seemed so like the prophet Elijah. Remember how God told him to go to the brook Cherith. It was in effect a "lockdown" resting place in a very difficult time throughout the land. Plenty of water for him and God's provision via the ravens. It meant rest, refreshment, security as well as protection. THEN *"it came to pass after a little while and the brook dries up "* (1 Kings 17:7) so then he had to move on.

There comes a time in all our lives when God calls us to move on, to trust Him for the next part of the journey. What Elijah found and so will you, God is there to meet you in the next place. Have no doubt about it coming out of "lockdown" will be like a new beginning. Things will not be the same. Yet one of the things we can take to heart is that *"His mercies are new every morning"*. Our God is the God of the second chance, of fresh starts. Don't forget the battle (to start again or whatever) is the Lord's and it will be *"not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6)*. So read that verse above again AND THEN

BE CONFIDENT

"be confident of this that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion" (Philippians 1:6)

Everywhere there is turmoil, confusion and trouble. The daily media "jousting" to try to score points against government officials and so in the process ensures frustration, doubt, misunderstanding and fear. Church as we knew it has changed yet we have to grasp this simple but very profound truth **God is still the same**. We place our confidence in Him. As before we depend on Him. Why? Because we know He will not disappoint us. Challenge us - yes but He will not let us down as we trust Him. Why? Because we know He never fails. Take a moment to refresh your memory by reading Psalm 37. Here is verse 3 *"Trust in the Lord and do good, dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture"*. Let me urge you - how with willing hearts and hands just like Nehemiah *"we WILL build the walls again"*.

BE COMMITTED

"Commit you way to the Lord, trust in Him" (Psalm 37:5)

"I urge you in view of God's mercy offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God "(Romans 12:1)

We do not have ready made answers to cope with the challenges we are facing. We cannot do things in our own strength but what we must have is a strong commitment to want to serve the Lord. To be surrendered, yielded absolutely to Him so that we depend upon two things - His wisdom and His power. They are the very blessings He entrusts to those totally committed to Him. Age and ability are incidental. Think positively, look for the good around us. Be men and women with lives filled with love, joy, peace and hope.

BE COURAGEOUS

"stand firm in one spirit, contending as one for the gospel .. without being frightened in any way" Philippians 1:30

I can think of a no more courageous a person serving the Lord than Paul. A quite staggering, amazing list, formidable, frightening, challenging list is set out as to what he experienced. How did he cope? Only by his absolute dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a moment of history. We are here for such a time as this. There are some big things we have to face and conquer. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. This is our time. Old and infirm or young and strong let us say we will serve the King of Kings and *"because HE lives we can face tomorrow"*

May God bless you , help you and be specially with you. DPS