

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to **CHURCH AT HOME** Sunday 19th July 2020

Join together with one another to read through this outline at 11am

Hymn & Chorus (To Sing or Read)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear

It makes the wounded spirit whole, and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary rest.

Dear name! the rock on which I build, my shield and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury, filled with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus! My shepherd, brother, friend, my Prophet, Priest and King;
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death!

(John Newton (1725-1807) Mission Praise 251)

When the road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus
He alone has power to keep, fix your eyes upon Him.
Jesus is a gracious friend, one on whom you can depend,
He is faithful to the end, fix your eyes upon Him.

(Norman J Clayton – Junior Praise 279)

6. **THE GREATEST (v15) – full of grace and truth**
“He...has surpassed me”
He has no equal in his words and deeds!
We do well to listen to him – to live our lives to the full.
Are you letting him be known rather than yourself?

7. **THE LAMB OF GOD (v29)**
“Behold, the Lamb of God...”
He came to lay down his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.
“Hallelujah, what a Saviour!”
Are you fixing your eyes on Calvary and God’s love for you?

These titles reveal Jesus to us, like facets of a diamond.
Look – Behold and believe in him, this is the one who gives us life.

What sort of life do you have?

The last few months have been difficult for all. We hope to be able to meet together soon and that will be a great joy and help to our faith. Yet, haven't we been able to meet with our Lord in lockdown? The Church building may have been closed but I trust your heart has been open?

The road has been rough, but as the chorus reminds us, we travel with one who is *“a gracious friend...faithful to the end”*.

When John wrote his Gospel, he wanted his readers to believe and live – through their trials and troubles.

Jesus gives life and light – may lockdown have renewed your life and light – ready for the challenges of the days ahead.

Pastor Andrew

Benediction

“He will keep you strong to the end...God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful”
(1 Corinthians 1.8-9)

Prayer

*Gracious God, Our Loving Heavenly Father,
Thank you for Jesus, your Son, who has enriched our lives in every way.
Thank you for your grace and forgiveness.
Thank you for your Church and the blessings of belonging to you through them. Bless those in need today with your presence and comforting word.
Continue to help us in our dealings with Covid-19. Give wisdom and ease the fears of our neighbourhood.
May you be glorified through your people today, in Jesus Name. 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

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."
(Hebrews 12.2a)

"These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20.31)

Read John 1.1-18 and verse 29

"Light and Life to all he brings..."

I was relieved to see that Tesco had removed its direction arrows from the shop floor. I have lost count of the times I had to go round again having forgotten an item down an aisle!

John's Gospel is direct and to the point. He writes the account of Jesus' life that you and I **"might believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and through believing have life in his name"** (John 20.31)

John's opening chapter is known as the prologue and sets out who Jesus is and what He came into the world to do. It does this by using a number of names or titles. He is:

1. THE WORD (v1 and v14)

"In the beginning was the Word..."

Echoing Genesis chapter 1, John explains how Jesus is God made flesh. He is eternal, co-equal with the Father
God speaks the word and things happen. God sent the Word to make things happen!

Are you listening to what God is saying to you?

2. THE LIFE (v3-4)

"In him was life..."

He is the reason that anything and everything exists!
He is the Resurrection and the Life, the Way, the truth, and the Life.
Being with him – energises our lives.

Is your life a life full of Jesus?

3. THE LIGHT (v4-9)

"The True Light gives light to all man..."

His life brought Heaven's holiness to earth.
We are Light to the World – in His Name.

Are you letting your light shine in the darkness?

4. THE CREATOR / OWNER (v10-11)

"...the world was made through him; the world did not recognise him"

His life and light was rejected rather than received.
Yet, those who believe become a new creation.

Are you letting the Lord Jesus mould your life?

5. THE SON – the ONLY BEGOTTEN (v14 and v18)

"...the only begotten of the Father"

Those who believe become family.
We share with him and will share His glory!

Are you bearing the family characteristics?