

Anchor No 4 The ministry of the Holy Spirit

Pentecost is about an inner special something that is so amazing not only in the way it happened then but as it is meant to be the special something that ought to be everyday Christianity for us today. The Holy Spirit wants to enlighten us by showing us what we need and what we are to do. The Holy Spirit wants to enliven us by taking us from the doldrums of despair so that we keep the message of the flame of God's love still burning brightly. Throw down the anchor *while we are waiting for the day*" **DPS**

In spite of the dreadful news and spike of this past week regarding increased lockdown procedures in various places we are at this present time still able to continue meeting in the Main Hall

So just a reminder.

At this time, and considering all that is required for us to hold a service our decision is to continue to meet in the Main Hall throughout the month of October. It is easier and more efficient **at the moment** to comply with the requirements placed upon us. Before anyone makes a comment let me assure you that I spent one and a half hours going through all the documentation and information set out after the Prime Minister's statement to the nation as it was published and updated on September 24th. Our limit is 40 and 39 have been in attendance.

We are aware of the desire of many to want to move into the sanctuary and with this in mind we as the leaders will meet again to review everything at the end of the month. Please be patient with us. Those shut in at home, you too are very much on our hearts. Although we cannot visit, you remain very much in our prayers. **We miss you.** None of us can tell what is before us. So my simple plea is this. Do not lose your confidence in the Lord, keep trusting Him. Again be patient with us as we lead you - we only want the best for you all. Hoping you are blessed with today's message *"think it not strange"*

David P Saunders

ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 18th October 2020

"WAITING FOR THE DAY"

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

HYMN MP 228 (to read or sing)

Here from the world we turn,
Jesus to seek.
Here may His loving voice,
Tenderly speak.
Jesus, our dearest friend
While at Thy feet we bend;
Oh, let Thy smile descend
'Tis Thee we seek

Come, Holy Comforter;
Presence divine.
Now in our longing hearts
Graciously shine.
O for Thy mighty power!
O for a blessed shower,
Filling this hallowed hour
With joy divine.

Saviour, Thy work revive!
Here may we see
Those who are dead in sin
Quickened by Thee !
Come to our hearts' delight
Make every burden light,
Cheer Thou our waiting sight;
We long for Thee

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

*O Lord God our glorious, gracious, heavenly Father
We are so glad You never change
Enable us this morning to worship with a deep sense
of reverence and gratitude.*

The times are so difficult, where are we going?

In it all we really feel so helpless, so desperate.

*Give us the strength and the faith to trust You more
and follow You because You are loving, faithful and dependable*

AMEN

You may like to say the Lord's prayer also.

BIBLE VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Acts 27:29

WAITING FOR THE DAY

***...They dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed
for daylight" (NIV)
"wished (waited) for the day"(KJV)***

The closing chapters of ACTS are surprisingly downbeat, full of stress situations, upsets, setbacks. Seemingly what was worst of all was the storm that took place when Paul was sailing (as a captive) to Italy. Once they managed to get to Fair Havens near Lasea he advised them not to travel on but no one took a scrap of notice. The "soft wind" became a "stormy wind" of hurricane force. A North Easter so bad the crew could not steer the ship. The situation was desperate. It was situation impossible. They did so much but it did not make the slightest difference Then they threw out those anchors and waited for the day. What did they do? Huddle together or find a place to be on their own . It was so dark. The ship was so fragile. It has been a long time trying to cope so now they were "waiting for the day" and the inevitability of what it might hold for them.

We know something of experiences like that. How the days have stretched to months. How the warnings are such we question are we going to make it with this Covid -19 seemingly doing what it pleases when and where without making sense as it rages unchecked. We too are "waiting for the day" when it will be all over. So many feel desperately lonely, with doubts, lingering fears, and anxieties, We stay silent but secretly hope that someone will really understand, will listen, will care. The Psalmist must

have been in a similar frame of mind. "Look to the right and see, for there is no one who regards me, there is no escape for me. No one cares for my soul" (Psalm 142:4) It is so sad to hear words like that. Have you said it? Probably at some time or other. I have said it all too frequently "Who cares for me?" How precious to know there is a special Someone (Jesus) who makes it so very clear "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of these falls to the ground apart from the will of your Father. Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. So do not be afraid you are worth more (of more value)than many sparrows. (Matthew 10:29-31) See God cares.

Back to the storm. "They threw out four anchors and waited for the day" Here is a great spiritual lesson. In our present situation we can throw down some anchors.

Anchor No 1 The motivation of hope.

Hebrews (6:19)"we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure

As long as you have hope in your heart, life cannot destroy you.. It may hurt you but it cannot break you Our hope is in Jesus so that is an anchor for our souls It is sure - it cannot break. It is steadfast - it cannot slip.. Paul talks of "the God of hope ... so that you may abound in hope" When the Psalmist was in trouble so he said "Hope Thou in God" (Psalm 42) It simply means He is the One you can count on in any situation or crisis. It is time to throw down the anchor.

Anchor No 2 The miracle of prayer.

Remember the chorus " A little talk with Jesus make sit right, all right" Prayer is the channel through which the power of God gets into the soul of man. We cannot live the life Jesus exhibited and requires of us if we do not carry this anchor. It is a wonderful anchor for our lives as it brings peace of mind, spiritual well being and a right perspective on life. Throw down the anchor

Anchor No 3 The message of the cross

This must be the greatest of them all for it is the story of God's wonderful love. When you feel the strength of Calvary love- it will not let you go. No wonder we sing "O love that will not let me go I rest my weary soul in Thee" It is a life changing message. Because His body was broken ours can be made whole.. Because His blood was shed our sin can be forgiven. Because He loves us we do not have to be afraid. Because He was forsaken we will never have to be alone - throw down the anchor.