

## It makes me CONTENTED

*"I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content"  
(Philippians 4:10)*

It is so sad to hear the criticism, complaints and the very vocal attitude right across our contemporary world. The generous assistance financially that has created such a massive national debt is met with angry outbursts. Impossible demands expressed so forcibly reveal the discontentment prevalent in today's world. Every group you name feels it is entitled to every demand it makes oblivious of the consequences. What is distressing more so, is when you encounter that approach within the life of the church.

If I recall it correctly one of the pictures in John Bunyan's "Pilgrims Progress" is that of a man bending double sorting his way through a pile (bin) of rubbish carefully extracting the little bits of tinsel he finds there. Behind him is an angel who is offering him a solid gold crown studded with precious jewels. The man is so engrossed in the rubbish he never notices the angel. God must shake His head when we hold on to things so tightly and miss out on the blessings He has for us. Real and lasting contentment is found in Jesus. May His blessing be yours so that we really do live in *"undisturbed places of rest"*

**DPS**

Did you know about today's hymn writer Horatio Spafford

He lost everything including his son in the Great Fire of Chicago so he sent his wife and four children (girls) for a break to England on the *SS Ville De Havre*. The ship was struck by another vessel, it sank in 12 minutes, over 200 lives were lost. The survivors were brought ashore at Cardiff. His wife cabled him "saved alone". Spafford booked passage on the next ship. As it crossed the Atlantic so it slowed down near the tragedy. Spafford then penned the words *"When sorrows like sea billows roll ..... it is well, it is well with my soul"* I have always known the last verse with the words

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
"Even so" - it is well with my soul.

Which ever version you use - may you be blessed of God today and everyday.

**Please Note:** As soon as we can return to Sunday morning worship we will let you know.

## ROCHFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Welcome to

### CHURCH AT HOME

Sunday 15th November 2020

#### "UNDISTURBED"

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

#### **HYMN MP 757** (to read or sing)

When peace like a river attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea-billows roll;  
Whatever my lot You have taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul"

*It is well with my soul;  
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, if trials should come  
let this blessed assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin - O the bliss of this glorious thought-  
My sin - not in part - but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live !  
If Jordon above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
You will whisper Your peace to my soul.

But Lord, it's for You - for Your coming we pray  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal.  
O trump of the angel ! O voice of the Lord !  
Blessed hope ! Blessed rest of my soul.

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

O God this morning we worship You with a renewed sense of appreciating just how great and glorious You are. It is tough at the moment so we need Your help Your strength, Your favour, Your blessing. As we sit here remind us of Your love Help us to feel Your presence In Jesus' Name  
**AMEN**  
You may like to say the Lord's prayer also.

**BIBLE VERSE FOR THE WEEK**  
**ISAIAH 32:18**

*"My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest"*

**UNDISTURBED**

Did you feel like saying "here we go again" as the news announced a further four week lockdown and we had to close the church yet again. One reason why a crisis is a crisis is because it usually catches us by surprise. Everything seemed to be going well. Inconvenient maybe, as we met and worshipped together. Face masked, correctly checked, sanitised and distanced, yet meeting together, listening to the Word of God together. Following the songs, humming the tune and words to ourselves behind the masks. Then the red light flashed stop.

Do you remember the incident when a man and his wife walked down Emmaus Road ? They walked in silence and despair. As far as they were concerned Jesus was dead. All their hopes had been destroyed. By the way let me remind you - we have all walked on the Emmaus Road, and even maybe that is where you are today. The pandemic just will not go away, it seems despite what we are told there is just not an answer. BUT suddenly on the Emmaus Road "as they were talking Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them" (Luke 24:16). Can you grasp that "suddenly Jesus came" An amazing statement -don't you love words like that. At that moment they did not know Him, they thought He was just a stranger. Anyway Mary had mistaken Him for a gardener. The disciples saw Him walking on water and thought He was ghost. Yet in each situation it was Him ! It was His voice !. They could now say "He is here". So in one seemingly simple moment you can reach out touch Him, be made whole, know all is well. How can you be sure ? It will make your heart

burn ! "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us along the way" Luke 24:32. You will know He is there alright. There is no voice like His. No touch like His. No peace like His..

The current UK scenario designates how we are confined to "bubbles" - the singular, small group you can make contact with. It made me think of the bubble Isaiah envisaged. I have it marked out in my Bible. Amidst all the noise, clamour, conflict the prophet states "My (Gods) people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" What a bubble ! Go to your front door - look at the number - tell yourself that is where I live "an undisturbed place of rest".

How has the past week been ? Physically exhausting, emotionally and spiritually draining, challenging and discouraging. When Jesus had times like that He prayed - early in the morning , late at night. If Jesus felt the need to pray, why don't we ? "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6) It is how we make our homes "undisturbed places of rest".

**It makes me CONFIDENT.**

*" this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us (1 John 5:14)*

We are experiencing a huge breakdown in trust and confidence in government, business ,schools, families.. Everyone jostling for position, scoring points, expressing hostility. What I have discovered about Jesus He is the Way, the Truth and the Life- He never misrepresents or undermines. He always understands,. Is always there for us and constantly assures us of His presence. I know day by day the picture changes. We have to climb mountains, go through valleys, face storms, marvel at beautiful sunsets. It is all part of the incredible journey we are taking. Live one day at a time, live in the present, in the here and now for that is where God is.

**It makes me be COMMITTED**

*I pray God your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless" 1 Thess 5:23*  
It is the realisation that God wants us to be totally committed to Him. Enoch's testimony was "that he pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5) That is the challenge for us. We are living in a world and at a time when so many spend their life trying to please themselves or others, Don't get caught in that trap. God is looking for people who live to please Him.