

Petersfield and Liss URC

'In Touch'



Sunday 12th July 2020

Hello and Welcome

Sustained by the LORD

'...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine'. Isaiah 43 v 1 *New International Version*

As the lockdown continues, though easing, some of us might be fearful of going out, others might be lonely, desperate for company, some might be anxious, others might have lost their jobs and sadly some might have lost a loved one to death, yet others, desperate for things to get back to normal. You might wonder how long is this still going on? How long can I continue this way?

The word of the LORD says in Isaiah 43 v 2-3, 'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour'.

The LORD God Almighty, El Shaddai, the All-Sufficient One is with you and He is for you. Whatever you might be experiencing right now because of this lockdown, and whatever your fire might be or your rivers that you are going through, know that the LORD God Almighty is for you.

As He said in Isaiah 43 v 4&5, 'Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you'. Therefore, 'do not be afraid for I am with you.'

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace'. Numbers 6 v 24-26

Blessings, Esmé

If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.

Josh – 01720 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Jo – 01730 301377,
Esmé – 01730 266636



You – Know - Who

By Edward Grinnan, Moments of Grace

I stood in line at the pharmacy trying to observe social-distancing protocols in the narrow aisle. I was picking up a prescription for Julee and juggling a few hard-to-get items we needed...exam gloves, disinfectant wipes, and cleansers, plus aloe vera skin cream to address the damage this pandemic hygiene was doing to my hands. I was wearing a basic surgical mask. My fellow shoppers were similarly outfitted.

The woman in front of me in line turned around and said, "You know what I hate about these masks? "no-one can see when you are smiling"" We are in this together" she said, smiling, I imagined. "I used to be a nurse, a long time ago ", the woman continued. "There's a lot you can do to stay protected, but the rest is up to you-know-who." She nodded towards the ceiling. Loading my purchases in the car I felt a smile form beneath my mask. Here I was with all my protective, officially recommended germ-slaying products. But the greatest protection comes from you-know-who. Protection that never need replenishments.

Lord, I know who you are – the One whose protection is ever present, whose sheltering arms are always opened. Amen

Prayer Scavenger Hunt

Power – This week's scavenger hunt is to find a battery somewhere in the house! This could be a new one or one you've pinched from the remote control (just remember to put it back again when you've used it for this reflection!) We have recently invested a significant amount of money into buying dozens of rechargeable batteries. With all the children's toys that require different sizes of battery it felt like a shrewd move. It is important to keep batteries charged whether this is on your phone or laptop, electric shaver or some other device or whether you just keep some spare in the house for the remote control, smoke alarm or clock. I'm sure we can all think of a time when a battery has run out at the most inopportune of moments

Acts 1:8 says this; “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The disciples were promised that they would receive power to witness and share God's word throughout their local area (Jerusalem), the wider community (Judea), among those who did not like them, or share their faith (Samaria) and many others yet to receive God's word (The ends of the earth). Can you think of a time you have felt God's power with you so tangibly giving you the bravery and courage to share something of your faith with others? In times like this, can you think of ways in which you can carry out this commissioning even whilst unable to see others in the same way as we are used to? Who first shared the message of good news to you and how did you respond to this at first? Has this changed over time? Pause to consider these questions before we pray.

Lord, we praise you that you created the world to reflect your love and truth and that everything in the world relies on you for its life. We praise you that when we turned away from you in our self-centeredness and self-sufficiency, you did not reject us or turn your back on all that you had made. We praise you that your love for your creation never ends and that it has no limits. We praise you that your love reaches out to seek and to save a lost world and broken lives; that in Christ you have demonstrated your mercy and your understanding of who and what we are and what we are not. We praise you for the good news of his life, death and resurrection and that this is the message that you have called and commissioned us to make known. Lord, we cannot praise you too much and we cannot offer too much worship for all you have done for us in and through Jesus Christ. We praise you that through your Holy Spirit we can know your presence and power within our hearts and lives, and we can know what it means to be made new. We praise you for who you are, our great and glorious sovereign Lord. We pray that you will take our words of praise and by your Holy Spirit transform them into words and deeds that bring you glory for ever. In the name of Christ, the King of the kingdom. Amen. Josh

Let There Be God

Let there be God, I said, for without Him our lives are void.

Let there be Life! Said God, that Man may breathe and share my Life.

Let us live free, I said; and through His laws I found life free.

This Life is good, I cried; and boldly took His hand in mine.

Go, tell the world, He said, that it may see – Full Life is bound to Me.

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Let there be God- A Way of Looking

Put thou thy Trust in God

*Put thou thy trust in God,
In duty's path go on.
Walk in his strength with faith and hope,
So, shall thy work be done.*

*Give to the winds thy fear,
Hope, and be undismayed:
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.*

*Through waves and clouds and storms
His power will clear thy way:
Wait thou his time; the darkest night
Shall end in brightest day.*

John Wesley (trans. From Paul Gerhardt)
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Petersfield and Liss
United Reformed Church

