

Lent Meditation for Tuesday Group prayers

24 March 2020

Jesus said:

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5 verse 9

These are very strange times and we are behaving very strangely. A sense of loneliness seems to be creeping up on us though for some this is not new. We are actively encouraged not to engage with each other inside or out. No pubs, cafes, football or even church! In some countries these things are already banned. Less travel, less pollution, less noise, less hassle, less fighting. Does that make for more peace?

Is peace only the lack of busyness, noise and violence?
Fundamentally peace transcends what going on outside of us.

Great figures of the past have worked to effect peace and that meant trying to build relationships between individuals and groups. I think of Mahatma Gandhi who all of his life worked so hard and at great personal cost to bring his emerging nation together. Peacemakers often disturb the peace because they want us to confront those things inside us which need to change.

Jesus certainly disturbed the peace. So entrenched were the old corrupted ways that he had to break down before he could build up. He came to remake our relationship with God the Father and that meant also tackling injustice, prejudice and selfishness to mend the broken relationships with each other.

We have already seen depressing scenes and read disturbing tales related to panic buying. Supermarkets have tried to support the vulnerable but they and we rely on each other behaving reasonably.

But we also know that many more people, both seen and unseen, are working to keep things as normal and as safe possible. Remember NHS staff at the frontline and so many others working to protect us all.

The peace of God passes all understanding and that peace will only come to us when we recognise our limitations and seek forgiveness for the times we have put ourselves first.

If we take this opportunity to pause and reflect on what really matters to us and helps us to understand how important we are to each other then perhaps “All will be well, all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.” We will be called the children of God and his peace will be with us always.

Amen.

In Christ Alone

1.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, **what depths of peace**
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Songwriters: Keith Getty / Stuart Townend
In Christ Alone lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

Follow this link and choose to listen or sing along:

<https://celticworship.co.uk/videos/>

As many of you know the song above has come to mean a great deal to me in recent times. The first verse has a very real resonance just now.

Missing you all!

Stay safe and God bless.

Les

les@theslows.plus.com

01759 303888

07808 403640