



Letter #11 Church Family 17/04/2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1*

As the lockdown period is extended for at least another three weeks it is easy to grow weary and feel a bit discouraged. As usual the focus in this Friday newsletter to all the congregations is to alert us to ways in which we can gain encouragement from God’s word and God’s people in order to sustain us in these days and know the Lord as our stronghold.

1. Encouragement from God’s Word

- i. Today’s video message is based on the Book of Habakkuk ‘From fear to faith’. You will probably find it helpful to watch it with Habakkuk open in front of you. Access it by [clicking here](#).
- ii. As usual we have livestream services at 10am Sunday 19 April for both [main congregations](#) and [Grace/Four](#). This is then followed by ‘virtual coffee’ which can be accessed in the usual way.
- iii. This Sunday 19 April we are also launching a **new short service via Zoom at 6:30pm**. It will be a live service featuring prayers, Bible reading and talk – this week I will be speaking on the Book of Ruth ‘What is the Lord doing when life tastes bitter?’ the service will end at 7pm followed by virtual coffee ending at 7:30pm.
  - o To join the service, please email the office for the Zoom meeting details

2. Prayer

- i. We want to keep going with prayer at 7:30pm each evening. I know many are praying.
- ii. On Tuesday 21 April we should have been holding our Annual Meeting. Clearly that has been postponed to later in the year. In its place at 7:30pm on Tuesday we are going to put on a [Zoom prayer gathering](#). It will run from 7:30pm to 8pm and give us an extra opportunity to pray for our nation, our community, our church family and for family and friends. There will be more information sent out next Tuesday.
- iii. Other ideas for prayer over this weekend:
  - a. Pray for the preaching of God’s word to connect with all who are watching and for God’s Spirit to convict of the truth. Pray for Gavin preaching on 1 Corinthians 15 and Tom on 1 Corinthians 1 in the morning and for me preaching on Ruth 1 in the evening.



- b. Pray for the ongoing ministry led by Simon Heather with Contact, our group for older teenagers. A good number have been tuning in each week – pray for strong spiritual foundations to be laid in these days and for non-Christian friends to be welcomed so that they can discover Christ for themselves.
  - c. Pray for continued wisdom for the government in these times and for a turning to the Lord within the nation. Pray that in a situation where all the usual certainties are being challenged that people of all ages and backgrounds will be reaching out to Christ.
3. Supporting each other
- i. On Sunday morning at the St Nicholas livestream there will be an interview with Helen Read who works at Trinity School concerning their foodbank. [Click here](#) to find out more about how you can support this project through food donations or financial assistance.
  - ii. Many people are using Zoom to access Bible studies and services but not everyone is confident about using it! A friend, Susie Leafe, who works for GAFCON UK has put together a helpful guide, which Mike Talbot has kindly abridged. To access the guide, [click here](#).

As usual we finish with a song and a prayer.

The song is once again from St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney recorded just before the lockdown. 'O sacred head (Passion Chorale)' [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgXD\\_aIRs\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgXD_aIRs_c)

The prayer is from An English Prayer Book:

*Almighty God, you are a strong tower to all who put their trust in you: may those who suffer find you their defence; and may they know and feel that there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by whom and through whom we may receive health and salvation, except the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay

**To access the articles / items referred to in the letter, use the links below:**

[Click here](#)  
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Video message from Habakkuk  
To join the St Nic's live stream on Sunday at 10am  
To join the GC/4OCC live stream on Sunday at 10am  
To join the prayer gathering on Tues 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm  
To download details of how to support the Trinity food bank initiative  
To view the Zoom guide  
To listen to O Sacred Head