



Letter #31 Church Family 30/07/2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Here's a familiar passage from Proverbs 3: 5-6:

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Trust is based on the trustworthiness of the LORD. If the LORD isn't trustworthy why bother? Trust includes a choice: will I choose to trust in his trustworthiness or will I lean (put my weight upon) my own understanding of things? This choice is not simply a matter of thinking the right things; it is also a matter of my heart: the very core of who I am. Trust is played out in the practical 'stuff' of life: my ways and my paths.

When I look at the context of Proverbs 3, I see my personal trusting (your personal trusting) is set within a crucial context. 'Love' and 'faithfulness' (v.3) are to be integral to us because the LORD is loving and faithful to us. 'Not being wise' in our own eyes (v.7) is a good way to live because true wisdom is what the LORD wants to give us from himself. And trust involves an awareness the LORD disciplines us for what is good and wholesome, not harsh and punishing. Why? Because (v.12) 'those he disciplines he loves' and they are those in whom he 'delights' (v.12).

My point is this: may each of us trust in the LORD not just because we are commanded to do so, or that it is a good thing to do so, or that we want the circumstances of our life together as a church family to be smooth, but because we know who is trustworthy and who loves and (get this!) actually delights in us in and by his Son, the Lord Jesus!

This week Matt Taylor has prepared [a helpful talk 'Enacted Presence'](#) based on 1 Corinthians 10 for us.

As we look forward to the weekend and to the coming week:

Pray for the Sunday ministry at all our congregations.

At St Nicholas, it will be an All-Age Online Service and a smaller, morning prayer service in the church building; please head to the [St Nicholas website](#) where the different services and virtual coffees are clearly labelled.

At Grace and 4.00 Church John Khnana will continue the preaching series in Proverbs. Continue to pray for the Children's and Youth ministries – in particular, remember in prayer the upcoming Contact House Party (15 - 23 August)

As it is the beginning of a new month, you will find the [August Prayer Diary available here](#). Equally, with the start of a new month, do join us for our monthly prayer gatherings:



St Nicholas Church

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- [St Nicholas prayer gathering](#) is Tuesday at 20.00 (Meeting ID: 862 7779 3728 Password: 595317)
- [Grace and 4OCC joint prayer gathering](#) is on Tuesday 4th August at 20:00 (Meeting ID: 867 2982 5489 Passcode: prayer)

Additionally, do remember our brief, 15 minute, opportunities to pray for our response to and implementation of the Truscott review: Monday evenings at 20.00 and Thursday mornings at 08.00 (<https://bit.ly/TIGprayer>) - Via Zoom account or by telephone on 0203 481 5237 - Meeting ID 876 9748 8958 / password 410376)

Let me close with [a link to a remarkable vocal arrangement](#) (sung in what appears to be a stairway) of *Ubi Caritas*. In case your Latin is rusty, here are the words and translation:

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
 Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
 Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
 Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
 Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.
 Christ's love has gathered us into one.
 Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
 Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
 And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Warmly,
 Gavin

Gavin McGrath
 Associate Rector

Click Here	To watch Matt's video message on Enacted Presence
Click Here	Directions to all our Services and virtual coffees on a Sunday
Click Here	For the August Prayer Diary
Click Here	On Tuesday to join the St Nicholas prayer gathering
Click Here	On Tuesday to join the joint Grace & 4OC Church prayer gathering
Click Here	For Zoom link to weekly TIG Prayer Meeting (Mon & Thursday)
Click Here	To listen to "Ubi Caritas"