

6th January 2022

Rector's personal letter #88 06/01/2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:5)*

Our verse for 2022 reminds us of three vital things which we especially need to hear. It assures us of God's goodness, even when bad things happen. It encourages us with the reminder that though many things can be in short supply these days, the one thing that will never run out is Christ's unfailing love. Finally, as we celebrate our 900th anniversary later in the year, it reminds us of God's ongoing faithfulness which sweeps on like a river through all generations. Many of our plans over Christmas had to be changed because of the pandemic but God's eternal plans are guaranteed by his ongoing faithfulness and utter reliability. God the Father will always be faithful to His Son. The Son will always be faithful to His bride, the Church. Therefore, God's faithfulness is always the sure foundation every year, including this one, even amid all the challenges we might be facing. My prayer is that each one of us will return to this verse many times in 2022 in order to be nourished and strengthened by Christ.

Finally, a song and a prayer

I'm simply including the words of the song 'How good is the God we adore'. Every year we have included this song in our first prayer gathering of the year. Its words underline the wonderful truths in Psalm 100:5.

1 How good is the God we adore!
Our faithful, unchangeable friend:
His love is as great as his power
and knows neither knows measure nor end.

2 For Christ is the first and the last;
His Spirit will guide us safe home;
we'll praise Him for all that is past
and trust Him for all that's to come.

[Joseph Hart 1712-1768]

The prayer this week is the **Collect for Epiphany** with its glorious reminder of where the faithfulness of God is taking us!

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Warmly in Christ,

Angus MacLeay