

Telephone Service 12 Sep2021

Welcome to our service on this 15th Sunday in Trinity

Jesus said *"Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Let us pray. Lord, we thank you for your gracious invitation to enter into your presence, and in obedience we come to you with all our problems and lay them at your feet. You promise us that in you we will find peace and so we praise you. **Amen**

Song Through all the changing scenes of life © N Tate & N Brady

1. *Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy, the praises of my God shall still my heart and tongue employ.*
2. *O magnify the Lord with me, with me exalt his name; when in distress to him I called, he to my rescue came.*

We **confess** our sins

Lord Jesus, you wept over the sins of your city,

On our city Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Lord Jesus you heal the wounds of sin and division, jealousy and bitterness.

On us Christ have mercy **Christ have mercy**

Lord Jesus you bring pardon and peace to the sinner, grant us peace

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Absolution

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power the Spirit all our days. **Amen**

Readings

OT Reading Isaiah 50 :4-9a The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away.

6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

7 "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

8 He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.

9 Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; Who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.

NT Reading Mark 8 27-32. Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?"

28 So they answered, "John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets."

29 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

30 Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him.

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 He spoke this word openly.

Reflection

At theological College I remember hearing this warning: *You can preach a 100 good sermons but miss the one thing that God wants you to say*

As I wrote and shared my first message for today with Heather I was struck by a phrase in Isaiah; in chapter 50:4 *The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary.* and knew I had to say something different.

The phrase that God put on my heart is this: *to speak a word in season to him who is weary*

This has been (and still is) a season of weariness -we are fatigued & exhausted, faint & weary from Covid restriction moving goalposts, long hospital waiting lists, cancelled holidays, altered & altering plans. & are weary with it all

The Bible says a lot about things that weary us.

- David in Psalm 6:6 *I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears* - today we'd call that - mental health probs

David said *my bones are troubled.* When my Mum was at the end of herself she'd say I'm 'bone weary'

Are we like David weary with pain, weary with problems, weary with weakness, weary with worry?

Do we have times when it's all too much?

- Some people are wearied with old age. Ecclesiastes 12 gives a picturesque description of old age when the strong upright men bow down; *the keepers of the house* (our knees) tremble, *the grinders* (our teeth) cease because they are few; they *that look out of the windows* (our eyes) grow dim, *the almond tree* (of white hair) flourishes

The grasshopper is a burden, & desire fails, for man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets

Age can be tiring and wearying

- Even young people are wearied by the race of life, weary when things seem unending. Did you watch those Olympic/Paralympic runners and rowers, weakening in the race, and collapsing exhausted at the finish?

God says in Isaiah 40:30 *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall.*

- Some people are weary because of a spiritual battle - weary with troubles, temptations and testing; & finding God's silences too much to bear - so they give up on prayer & God

God said thro Isaiah (43:22) *You have not called upon Me, O Jacob; you have been weary of Me, O Israel.*

- Jeremiah in 9:5 talks about the weariness of wrong in the world *Everyone deceives his neighbour, and will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity* (they do wrong, and worry everyone else. with scams, false news & broken promises Morality is crumbling.

Who can you trust these days?

I used to say, in the innocence of my early days in ministry, You can trust me I'm a clergyman' hmm!... I don't now!!

- Jeremiah (51:58) wrote *Thus says the LORD of hosts: "The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates burned with fire. People will labour in vain, and the nations weary themselves because of destructive fire "* Our environment is struggling with plastic pollution, with rising CO2 levels, with heat and fires, with floods and storms

For many security and hope for the future has faded

People are weary with the burdens and broken-ness of the environment

Others are weary with work (there's no certainty to it, no end to it, no satisfaction in it. it's all 'Labour in vain') On the other hand, many are wearied and worried by a lack of work

- In the New Testament in Matthew 9:36 Jesus saw the multitudes, and was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. People lacked clear direction and good moral leadership
I read recently this observation: 'We live in a culture that elevates tolerance over truth. It's considered wrong to say something is wrong.' People are weary of a life that is ambivalent and directionless.

- In Galatians 6:9 Paul writes about the weariness of work that has no fruit or end; even the weariness of doing good. Think of all the junk mail that constantly pleads for help for this cause or that need

let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart

So what is the antidote. What is God's Word to the Weary?

1st Jesus knows what it's like to face all of this

He had to endure the opposition of evil, of bad people doing bad things, of hurt and hatred grinding him into the dust and (like Isaiah) said *I have set My face like a flint to go to Jerusalem; I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting*

Look to him who bore the cross and our sin (to save us) and our sorrows (to strengthen us) so we can sing 'What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear...'

Hebrews 12:3 says *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.* Look to Jesus

2nd Listen to him. In Matthew 11 Jesus says *come unto me all you who are weary and heavy laden* (tired and burdened) *Come to Me*, the one who will share and bear our burdens, who says: *Take my yoke on you, listen & learn from me and you will find rest for your soul* - ie rest in your inner being that will effect your outer situation

3rd Isaiah said twice in our Isaiah reading: *The Lord GOD will help Me;*
and in chapter 40: *Though youths faint and get weary, and young men utterly fall, those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint*

This is the word to the weary that the Lord wants me to give:

In weariness

- *Come to Me* says Jesus, and find shalom - rest & peace

- *Wait on the Lord* says Isaiah (don't give up) and be renewed in faith and rise up like an eagle

- *Trust* what God promises in his Word: *I will help you*

In weariness and worry find purpose and security, comfort and strength in the Lord

Before we pray - a **Song** of peace: My peace I give unto you © Keith Routledge

*My peace I give unto you, It's a peace that the world cannot give, It's a peace that the world cannot understand:
Peace to know, peace to live. My peace I give unto you*

Collect and Intercessions

Keep, O Lord, your church with your perpetual mercy; and because without you our human frailty cannot but fail, keep us ever by you're your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**

Jesus our burden bearer, we pray for those who are wearied by all the changes and Of this troublesome life. For those enduring pain of body mind or spirit, whose lives are stained with the tears and groans of depression and disappointment. We pray for those who seek to help the troubled, counsel the depressed, rescue the suicidal, and restore the hopeless

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Jesus our burden bearer, As the world groans in travail over the sin and selfishness of mankind, and we endure natural disasters of storms & floods, earthquakes and drought, fires and famines, and as nature as well as communities are destroyed by weapons of war. We pray for the leaders of the nations meeting to discuss the future of our world and implement plans for good and not evil Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Jesus our burden bearer we pray for those feeling the aches and pains and limitations of increasing years, those who in frustration cannot do what once they did, especially who are confined to their homes or to care homes and hospitals. We pray for family carers (young and old); for visiting carers, and for good neighbours who support the elderly

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Jesus our burden bearer we pray or those with unanswered questions and prayers who feel that you do not care, and question your existence. Help your church to such a light in the darkness and such an example of godliness that those who do not understand the written Word may in the lived Word of our lives come to know the touch of your love

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Jesus our burden bearer, who took our sins and sorrows of the world on your shoulders to the cross and buried them in the grave, teach us to daily look to you, listen to you and follow in every circumstance of life

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer** **Amen**

Lord's Prayer **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Song What a Friend we have in Jesus © Joseph M Scriven

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear; what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer*

O what peace we often forfeit! O what needless pain we bear! All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer

2. *Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care; precious Saviour still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Do your friend despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In his arms he'll take & shield you; you will find a solace there.

Benediction and blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you, and with those for whom you pray, this day and for evermore **Amen**

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