



The Sunday Supplement

Issue 6: 25th April 2020



And can it be

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
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That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley



Prayers for our Church Family

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

COVID-19 continues to affect everyone in Britain. Members of our church family face differing challenges both at home and in their working lives. We stand together in prayer for each other in these most unusual times. Together we are one part of the Body of Christ here in Highams Park. These suggestions are offered to help you pray for our work and witness in the coming days.

Healthcare

Pray for health and strength for those working in hospitals and GP surgeries

Give thanks for the practical and pastoral care they provide in difficult circumstances

Remember the current concerns that supplies of protective equipment are low and the risk this poses to healthcare workers

Care homes

Pray that staff in care homes will be given the health, strength and wisdom needed

Give thanks for staff providing care for vulnerable elderly people

Remember the families of residents who have died due to contracting Covid-19

Public services

Pray for bus drivers, postal workers, police and council staff in their daily work

Give thanks for the ongoing provision of public services and for the commitment of workers to this essential work

Remember that exposure to the coronavirus puts workers and their families at increased risk of contacting Covid-19

Business and commerce

Pray for those who are working from home and for those continuing to travel daily

Give thanks for those maintaining supplies of food, medicine, and other essentials

Remember those now out of work due to the closure of many businesses

Education

Pray for pupils, parents and staff as schools remain closed

Give thanks for the provision of materials online to support home education

Remember parents and children as they adjust to learning at home

Self-Isolation

Pray for the shielded group, for the medically vulnerable, and for older members

Give thanks for available support from Waltham Forest Council and voluntary groups

Remember council staff working to meet increasing demand for their services

Thought for the week



A fishing trip was just what Simon Peter needed. Boats. Nets. Fish. All were reassuringly familiar. The disciple whom Jesus once described as a rock, had been shaken to the core by the death of the man in whom he had placed all his hopes. Confronted with the reality of the risen Christ, Simon, no longer Peter the rock, was haunted by his own sense of failure. Facing an uncertain future, the larger than life fisherman turned back to the life he knew so well.

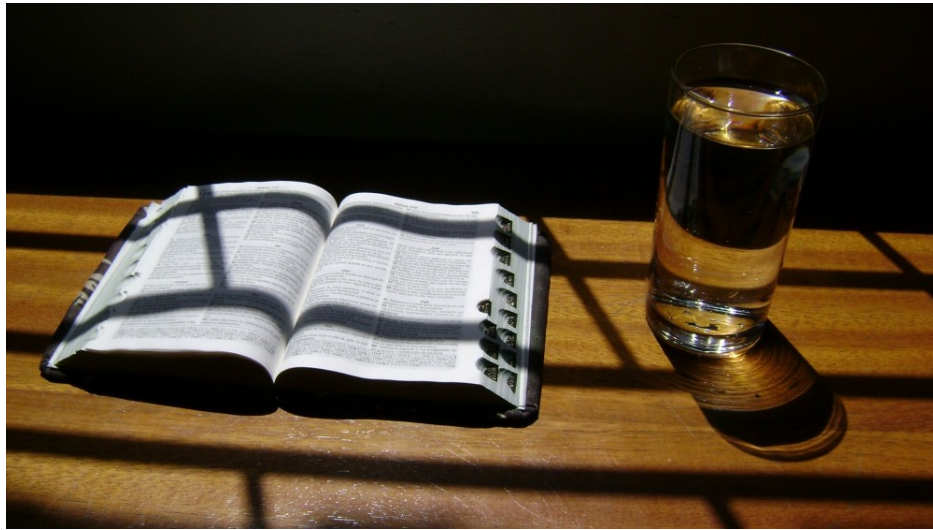
As our world has been turned upside down by Covid-19, maybe we have some sympathy with Simon Peter. The uncertainty of our times challenges us on every level. We do not know what to do or how to live anymore. We have based our hopes for the future on a way of life that seems to be no longer possible. Our health, our wealth and our wellbeing depend on our ability to overcome a disease for which we have no cure. Perhaps we too yearn to go back to earlier times when life was simpler and more predictable.

Jesus sought out his former companions as they fished. Six other men had joined Simon Peter on the boat. They had caught nothing until Jesus showed up. Even the old familiar ways had failed to bring solace to these confused and anxious men. Everything changed once Jesus appeared. There was a bumper catch of fish and a shared meal on the beach. Later, in a private moment, Jesus gave Simon new hope and confirmed his calling. With his faith and self-confidence restored, Peter would go on to be one of the most significant leaders in the early Christian community.

Gospel writers mention Jesus appearing to his followers only a few times. Each encounter encourages those present to move from the anxiety and doubt of the moment into a future of hope and service. Mary Magdalene, Thomas, Peter, and an unnamed couple on the road to Emmaus are all tasked with spreading the good news of the resurrection. History tells us that they did just that, sometimes at great cost to themselves. Resisting the pull to return to a more familiar way of life, Simon the fisherman soon became Peter the preacher.

Resisting the pull to return to a more familiar way of life in our own time is a challenge for most of us. Like Simon, we long to be as we were. In these unusual days we no longer encounter Jesus as we did in church among friends. Yet still Jesus seeks us out wherever we are, in friendship and in love. As we sit with him in our different places and spaces there is new hope to be found and perhaps a confirmation of our own calling. And then, with our faith and self-confidence restored, we, like Peter, will find we have the strength to move on and take our place in the Christian community of our own time.

Reading



John 21:1-19

