

Prayer Meeting – Monday 6th July

Kate

This month's prayer meeting is led by 'Kairos', a small group comprising of Kate, Christine, Liz, Gail, Helen, Julia and Cathryn.

This evening will have three linking sections focusing on the themes of 'Hope, Comfort and Light' all of which we felt were relevant at this time.

Hope - Christine

In Psalm 62: 5 says

Yes, my soul, find rest in god;

My hope comes from him.

HOPE for a Christian believer is the birthplace of self-sacrificing love. It is the belief that by putting our trust in God, he will take care of us, which gives us confidence and unshakeable expectation. It gives us the HOPE of salvation and protection against evil.

HOPE is the companion of love and faith, and it is the expectation of eventually being with God. Jesus did not speak of HOPE, but his resurrection revitalised the HOPE of his followers. HOPE is the belief that, beyond the grave, we will encounter heaven and be with our Father.

The importance of HOPE in the believer is encompassed in the words of the hymn ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED, of which this is the first verse:-

All my hope on God is founded
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown
He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.

Suggested topics for open prayer:- Thankfulness for the Hope that Jesus provides. Pray that more people will come to know Jesus through online services etc. Hope that research can find a vaccine for Covid-19.

COMFORT - Liz

Praise To The God of all Comfort

2 Corinthians 1: verses 3-7 is a text on comfort. The word "comfort" occurs no less than nine times in its noun and verb forms in these verses and Paul says more about suffering and more about comfort than any other writer in the Bible. Through everything he went through; imprisonment, 40 lashes, stoning and many more hardships, Paul always experienced God's comfort - never once was he without the comfort of God.

Forget the troubles, but not the truths they taught
Forget the days of sorrow, but not the strength they brought
Forget the storm you battled through, beneath the heavy load
But not the light that led you safely down the unknown road

2 Corinthians 1: Verses 3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Suggested topics for open prayer:- those who are unwell at home or in hospital. Those who are bereaved. Those who are facing unemployment and financial difficulties. For keyworkers who are working so hard especially the NHS.

A Prayer of Comfort

You hold us within your hands

Lord from the beginning to the end. Please keep and comfort us in our sadness and loss. Embrace us with your love and comfort us when we worry about the future and our loved ones: when we bring our burdens to you and when we struggle in our daily lives. Lord help us lift our eyes so that we may glimpse your glory and we can be comforted by the promise of Heaven.

We ask this in your name.

Amen

Light - Cathryn

In Matthew C5:v16, Jesus states: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Most simply, we are to hear the words of Jesus and put them into practice. We are to imitate Jesus, such that when we hear his words and put them into practice, people will see our good deeds and give glory to our Father in heaven.

We do this in imitation of Christ in order to bring the light, love, justice and peace of God to those people and places where it is needed the most. As followers of Jesus, this is our mission. This is our witness.

Suggested topics for open prayer: opportunities to share the Gospel with those around us. Our local community. Areas of the world where Christians are persecuted.

Let us share a time of open prayer now where we can reflect upon those within our local community who are in specific need of the Light of Jesus.... Let's pray

Helen

As we draw to a close, we have chosen a poem by Diarmuid O'Murchu. He explains that Jesus goes before us, a model to inspire and challenge but never so much beyond our reach as to leave us feeling unworthy, confused and certainly not abandoned.

Jesus remains with us the whole way. We have to put our trust in him, he will always be there for us lighting the way for us to follow.

I Go before You....but Never beyond You

I go before you always,
Yet you are my body, the voice of my hope,
The deep Incarnation, to light every nation,
A mission embracing incredible scope.

I go before you always,
But without you the dream will never unlock
The reign of empowerment, a mutual endowment,
A new dawn for freedom that time will not stop.

I go before you always,
Where two or three gather in the power of my name,
Disciples are equal, keep all structures supple,
Set free all from bondage, afire in new flame.

I go before you always,
I will never forsake you, affirming your truth,
Together we'll do it, empowered to pursue it,
God's new re-creation, is sure to bear fruit.