



**Sunday Service**  
**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**The Second Sunday of Lent**

**Enduring Hope (7)**  
**Trust costs – Old Testament Heroes**  
**Hebrews 11 : 32 – 12 : 4**

**Opening Prayers**

Jesus lead us to the Father by your Spirit; help us draw near. As we come with awe and gladness, help us draw near. Amen.

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Bible reading**

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were put to death by stoning; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated – <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Hebrews 11 : 32 – 12 : 4

**Talk : Enduring Hope (7) : Trust costs – Old Testament Heroes**

- Placing our trust in something or someone can be costly
- Placing our trust in Jesus doesn't mean an easy everyday life on earth
- Old Testament Heroes as our role models
  - Condemned for their faith by the world (v 36 – 38)
  - Commended for their faith by God (v 39)
- What should we expect?
  - Words and exclusion rather than sticks and stones
  - Following Jesus is costly
- What have we been promised?
  - Not alone, follow their example (12 : 1)
  - Jesus as our joy-maker (v 2)
  - Eternal life, not an easy mortality

**Final Prayers**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the examples in Hebrews of worthy men and women who gained Your approval through their faith. Even though it cost them dearly they continued to trust in the truth of Your word, when faced with unspeakable difficulties and dangers, and their faith did not waver. I pray that we may have the sort of faith that does not waver when problems arise and that we will be faithful always. Knowing that Your promises never fail, and your Word cannot be denied. I pray that we may be faithful witnesses to you in our lives. This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

Jesus, we fix our eyes on You and build our lives upon You. May faith grow stronger daily until we see Your face in that final day. Amen.

**Blessing**

May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us now and for ever more. Amen.