

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
April 2020**

READINGS

*Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble.
When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
Have no fear of sudden disaster
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
for the Lord will be at your side
and will keep your foot from being snared.*

Proverbs 3:23-26

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

*'For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-39

Immediately after the fighting stopped at the end of World War 2, allied soldiers gathered up many of the refugee and orphaned children, placing them in vast tent cities. Many of the children were so badly malnourished that they needed urgent healthcare. The soldiers shared their bread and food with the children every day. However, for all the care and attention, the soldiers noticed that the children were afraid to go to sleep at night. They tried everything, from reading stories to singing songs. Nothing worked. Until one of the soldiers tried something different, he gave some of the children some bread to hold as they went to bed. The result was amazing. When they had the security of knowing they had bread for tomorrow they slept like babies.

Story quoted by Eric S. Ritz

REFLECTION

Where is our security? What is it that gives us hope?
In these difficult times when we are surrounded by hourly news reports on the effects of COVID-9 around the world,
When we are reminded every day of the danger we face,
When we live in a time when people are forced to avoid one another,
And worry about everything from food to eat to job security.
All the things which people rely on are no longer guarantees of security,
This virus doesn't respect the size of house you live in,
The amount you have in the bank,
The qualifications and awards you might have.
Even the most powerful, find themselves in the care of people they do not know,
Just ask our prime minister.

So then where is our security? What is it that give us hope for tomorrow?

In our faith we are promised that we do not face a moment on our own.
Whatever comes our way,
God is with us,
And his love and care are never out of reach.
We are promised that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love God.
No matter what happens,
God's love is guaranteed.

Like the children going to sleep clutching their bread,
God's promises of presence and care and comfort and future,
Give us the hope to face today and tomorrow,
God will be with us no matter what,
And we will never be snatched from his care.

As we move through this pandemic and all that it means for the way we live our lives,
May we be comforted by the presence of God,
May we be filled with hope by the promise of God,
May we be blessed with peace by the love of God.

Our security is in the Lord. Our hope is in the Lord.



Prayer

Loving God,
As scary as things are,
We can trust in you,
For you are the creator,
The God of the Old Testament,
The Father of our Saviour
The inspiration of the church through the ages.

We can trust in you Lord
For you are the loving God.
You will never forget us,
You will never leave us on our own
to face what life throws at us.
Your love for us is bigger
than the fear caused by COVID19
Your love for us means
that we are never isolated from you.

In trust Father we call out to you,
And pray for our world:
We pray for healing for the sick,
For safety for those in danger,
For care to bloom in our community.
We pray for the safety of loved ones and friends.

In trust Father we give into your hands
Today and tomorrow and all our days,
Asking only for the strength to be faithful to you,
Looking only to recognise your work around us.

In trust Father we give ourselves into your care,
In Jesus name
Amen

