

Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
8th June 2021

READINGS

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.
For you bless the righteous, O LORD;
you cover them with favour as with a shield.

Psalm 5:11-12

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25-33



REFLECTION

All of us want some security. We want security in our lives and for our families. That's why we save money or invest it, that's why we encourage education and employment. We want security for our homes. That's why we lock our doors, and invest in burglar alarms. All of us want security, we want to feel safe, we want the assurance that no one and no thing can harm us. What has made the pandemic so frightening is that our security has been taken away. And one of the reasons vaccines have been so well received is because they offer back to us some of that security. We can do something to keep ourselves safe.

Psalms 5 is all about security. The psalmist rejoices in God's protection. This psalm was written by David when he was King of Israel. Under David the nation thrived, the armies were victorious, wealth and influence grew. As King, David could have relied on his armies – they were the most powerful of the days. He could have relied on his positions as King – his court was the most magnificent of day. He could have relied on his own wealth and the wealth of the nation, the nation of Israel was the most prosperous of the day and David the most wealthy man in the nation.

He could have relied on those things to keep him safe. But David recognized that these were fleeting things which, ultimately, could not guarantee security.

So, David relied instead upon God. Only God could surround him with a shield of love. Only God could offer him comfort amid the challenges he faced from his detractors. Only God could offer him courage when enemy nations came in war. Only God could hold him through personal doubt and failure. David knew that no matter what the attack or the threat to his security, only God could offer ultimate security. Only God could be a safe refuge in all times of trouble.

As we move out the restrictions of the pandemic, we all watch the news and the first minister's briefings, wondering what the news will be. As a church, we hear about the falling numbers, and the cuts that will have to be made. And we wonder and worry for the future – where is our security? We even wonder what God is doing in our midst if anything?

In Psalm 5, David offers a wonderful image God's shield of love around us, as both a source of hope, and as a challenge.

A hope because it is the certainty that yes God is with us, yes God is able to keep us under divine protection, and yes, God does have a will and a purpose for us.

But it is also a challenge,
Because we are asked to trust God, with our lives, with our Church, with everything.
We are asked to actively commitment ourselves, our family our Church to God in prayer,

How many of us then pray for the things that worry us? How many of us pray for our families? How many of us pray for our church and its members?

I ask this not to make anyone feel guilty for a lack of prayer, but rather to encourage us all to trust in God. To rely on God for our Church future. To trust God to provide the security we seek in our own lives and the lives of loved ones.

May we have the courage to trust God,
And to discover God's shield of love around us,
And to rejoice in God's plans and purposes for each of us and for our church community.
us,

PRAYER

Lord thank you for the shield of your love around us.
Thank you for offering to be our security.
Thank you for our Church,
And for your Good News at the heart of our community,

Lord we remember all those in need; those who are hurting, those confused and distressed by the suffering and loss of Covid 19 around the world. We ask your blessing upon them.

Lord,
Be with the church.
Be with us.
Teach us to trust in your protection.

In Jesus name we offer our prayers,
Amen.

