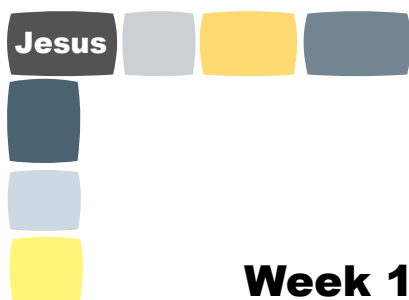


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Week 1 Church Shutdown

22nd March 2020

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We are living in strange days, never in my lifetime have all the Churches been shut down for an indefinite period of time. Along with pubs and theatres and most sporting activities, in an attempt to slow down the spread of the Covonavirus pandemic. It's the crisis of a generation and the scale of its impact is as yet unknowable.



What we do know is that God is the same yesterday, today and forever – loving, good, faithful and present among his people. This is a time for his body, the Church, to be a light to the world, to love our neighbours as ourselves, to serve our communities and to worship God with all our hearts as we take each day as it comes.

Will the church, at the right moments and with great wisdom, rally to meet the needs around us, and in doing so, serve the progress and joy of others' faith in Jesus?

This kind of courage will not be reckless or dismissive, ignoring wise public precautions. One of the most loving things we can do now is limit and slow the spread of the virus. But this kind of courage also will be ready, in the days to come, to step in where needed when few others will.

Now Is the Time

The gospel is always drowned out more easily in peacetime. What is there to fear? But not in a pandemic. When a cholera outbreak came to London, Charles Spurgeon admonished everyone in Christ,

Now is the time for all of you who love souls. You may see men more alarmed than they are already; and if they should be, mind that you avail yourselves of the opportunity of doing them good. You have the Balm of Gilead; when their wounds smart, pour it in. You know of Him who died to save; tell them of Him. Lift high the cross before their eyes. Tell them that God became man that man might be lifted to God. Tell them of Calvary, and its groans, and cries, and sweat of blood. Tell them of Jesus hanging on the cross to save sinners. Tell them that —

“There is life for a look at the Crucified One.”

Tell them that He is able to save to the uttermost all them that come unto God by Him. Tell them that He is able to save even at the eleventh hour, and to say to the dying thief, “today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise.”

God has prepared good works for us (Ephesians 2:10). He has prepared us for days like these. He plans to show the immeasurable riches of his kindness through simple acts of Christian courage in a world paralysed and consumed by fear. Father, in the name of Jesus, use your church.

You can still have a sing even if you are on your own, in fact that may be preferable !! Here's one of my favourite songs , "There is a Hope" it's no surprise that it's a Stuart Townend song!

There is a hope that burns within my heart
That gives me strength for every passing day
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part
Yet drives all doubt away
I stand in Christ with sins forgiven
And Christ in me the hope of heaven
My highest calling and my deepest joy
To make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head
A consolation strong against despair
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit
I find the Saviour there
Through present sufferings future's fear
He whispers courage in my ear
For I am safe in everlasting arms
And they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time
That lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine
When I behold His face
When sufferings cease and sorrows die
And every longing satisfied
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul
For I am truly home

Mark Edwards & Stuart Townend Copyright 2007

If you can go on line have a look on Youtube and if you put the song title in the search box you will be able to sing along to some great videos of not only "There is a Hope" but lots of other great Christian songs as well.



Why not take a look at www.clayton.tv there's lots of good stuff ranging from sermons to Bible studies and all the past Keswick videos to watch.

We are certainly in the last days and the book that gives us an insight into some of the things that are going to happen and maybe are even happening now is the book of Revelation. I have a set of 5 DVD's from Keswick recorded in 2016 when Steve Brady was taking the morning Bible readings, if you would like to borrow them one at a time please let me know and I will deliver them to you at home. When you have watched one I will exchange it for the next one ring or text me on 07467024552



If you need any help during the social isolation then please contact either Sara on 07736 972683 or Stuart on 07467 024552

Keep in touch let us know how you are getting on either on the Cornerstone Facebook page or our email address on page 1