




Live your faith 29 Nov – 5 Dec 2020



Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week

 This week's Bible readings Isaiah 64.1-9 • Psalm 80.1-7,17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 • Mark 13.24-37

Waiting in the dark

Notes on the Gospel reading

- Jesus warns his disciples that life will not always be easy. In fact, he makes it very clear that there are times when it will be scary and hard. The warning works on two levels. For those listening to Jesus, or hearing this story in the decades that followed, it is a very real and contemporary one as they lived through the destruction of the Temple in AD 66–70. But it is also a warning for all Christians, that there will be times of devastation in life. Jesus makes it very clear that no matter how bad things get, how many things change and disappear, his words and his promise will always remain.

- The story that Jesus tells of servants waiting for their master to return is a reminder that his followers need to be ready. The use of the word 'ready' is significant. It is an active word. We aren't just waiting around for Jesus to come back: we have to be on the lookout, engaged with our faith. This passage poses the question of whether we will be faithful when God seems distant, and hopeful when situations seem hopeless.

Watch and wait

On a sheet of paper, draw a timeline showing the weeks and months of the year ahead. Think of some things you are waiting for during the coming year (as trivial or as important as they like) and mark them on the timeline. Use the timeline as a prompt to prayer for the occasions and any people who might be involved, and that God will help you 'watch and wait' through difficult times in the coming year, confident in the promises of Jesus.

FREE [worship at home](http://www.rootsontheweb.com) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: www.rootsontheweb.com

Questions for reflection

- ▶ How would you describe this image?
- ▶ What moments of 'light in the darkness' have you experienced?
- ▶ When times are dark, what keeps you watching and waiting?



A prayer of adoration

God, your name is Love, and in your great love you have called us into community with each other. With you and in you and because of you, we are nurtured in love. Yours is the name that lasts for ever. Your love reaches into all corners, confirming those who wait for you – that they wait in the name of Great Love. Amen.

A prayer for others

*We pray for
those who have waited for years for the dawn...
those for whom hope seems dim...
those whose morning brought the unexpected...
those struggling to adjust to new realities...
those whose fires have grown dim...
those who are ignoring the signs of the times...
those who are struggling to keep awake...*

A personal prayer

God of light and night, you are to be found, whether at dusk or dawn. Sometimes the light seems far, and the night seems long. May I find comfort, whether in the soft night, or the kind dawn, knowing that you created both, and you wait for me, as I wait for you. Amen.

Live your faith

Keep a birthday cake candle close to hand. If, at any time, the darkness gets too much for you, light the candle. Then, before blowing it out, say the personal prayer above.



Resumption of Services at the Community Centre

From Sunday 6th December we are allowed to resume public worship in Ronkswood Community Centre as we did prior to the recent lockdown. Under current restrictions you need to remind yourself that:

- You must**
- wear a face mask at all times, except when receiving your communion.
 - sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the building.
 - register your attendance with the Vicar every week.
 - advise us immediately if you test positive for Covid 19.
- You must not**
- mingle with anyone who is not in your bubble. As harsh as this sounds you must enter the building and sit down, then leave straight after the service without chatting.
 - car share with anyone who is not in your bubble.
 - attend if you display any symptoms of Covid 19.

Blue Christmas Memorial Service. Available to view on You Tube from Sunday 13th December.

In place of our annual All Souls service, this year we are holding a Blue Christmas Service on YouTube. Many of you will receive a letter over the next week with details about this. As with All Souls we will read out the names of the departed. If you would like someone remembered during the service please pass the names to the Vicar by Tuesday 8th December so they can be included in the recording.

Details of other Christmas services will be on next week's newsletter!

A prayer I use every day...

DEAR GOD,

SO FAR TODAY I'VE DONE ALRIGHT. I HAVEN'T GOSSIPED. I HAVEN'T LOST MY TEMPER. I HAVEN'T BEEN GREEDY, GRUMPY, NASTY, SELFISH OR OVERINDULGENT. I AM VERY THANKFUL FOR THAT. BUT IN A FEW MINUTES GOD I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET OUT OF BED, AND FROM THEN ON, I'M PROBABLY GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE HELP. AMEN.

Daily Readings for week commencing 30 th November 2020			
Monday	Ezekiel 47: 1-12	John 12: 20-32	<i>St Andrew</i>
Tuesday	Isaiah 43: 1-13	Revelation 20	
Wednesday	Isaiah 43: 14-end	Revelation 21: 1-8	
Thursday	Isaiah 44: 1-8	Revelation 21: 9-21	
Friday	Isaiah 44: 9-23	Revelation 21: 22-22:5	
Saturday	Isaiah 44: 24-45:13	Revelation 22: 6-end	

Pray for those in need... Sally, Zena, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Tim, Mandy and Joyce. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...we remember Reginald and James...***