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Issue 115

The Next Step



Canberra Aboriginal Church

Canberra Christian Fellowship
(in the Methodist Tradition)



Canberra Christian Fellowship (in the Methodist Tradition) and Canberra Aboriginal Church
Worship Services SUSPENDED due to COVID-19 coronavirus threat

I have been asked if I can include a hymn in these newsletters sometimes. One suggestion was "Just as I am".

Just as I am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind;
Yes, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

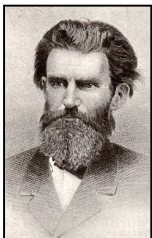
Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Written by English poet and hymn writer Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871) in 1835, "Just as I am" was later used as an altar call song by Billy Graham at most of his crusades.

At a charity bazaar, Charlotte's mind was troubled and "she felt [her troubled thoughts] must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, His power, His promise. And taking pen and paper from the table she deliberately set down in writing, for her own comfort, "the formulae of her faith." Hers was a heart which always tended to express its depths in verse. So in verse she restated to herself the Gospel of pardon, peace, and heaven."

"when she was not able to attend public worship, she wrote, "My Bible is my church. It is always open, and there is my High Priest ever waiting to receive me. There I have my confessional, my thanksgiving, my psalm of praise, and a congregation of whom the world is not worthy – prophets, and apostles, and martyrs, and confessors; in short, all I can want I find there."



There are several tunes to which "Just as I am" is sung, however the original tune, Woodworth, is the one with which we are probably most familiar, It was written by American William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868) who is also known for writing the tune to "Jesus loves me".

the information above was found in Wikipedia



A pre Social Distancing joke

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, and a German are walking down the street together. A juggler is performing on the street but there are so many people that the four men can't see the juggler. The juggler gets on top of a platform and asks, "Can you see me now?"

The men yell out, "Yes", "Oui", "Si", "Ja".

At a pizza parlour a man was observed ordering a small pizza to go. He appeared to be alone and the cook asked him if he would like it cut into 4 pieces or 6.

He thought about it for some time before responding...

"Just cut it into 4 pieces, I don't think I'm hungry enough to eat 6 pieces."

Chaplains

Please pray that the chaplains we particularly support can adapt their ministries to the conditions we all currently face. - Mr. Owen Chadwick - Universities chaplaincy, Rev. Bob Prior - Racecourse chaplaincy, Rev. Paul Tabulutu - N.S.W. / A.C.T. Fijian churches



Some humour was also requested

When the moon hits your eye
Like a big pizza pie,
That's amore.

When you swim in a creek
And an eel bites your cheek,
That's a moray.

Ten Things I know about you

- 1) You are reading this.
- 2) You are human.
- 3) You can't say the letter "P" without separating your lips.
- 4) You just attempted to do it.
- 6) You are laughing at yourself.
- 7) You have a smile on your face and you skipped No. 5.
- 8) You just checked to see if there is a No. 5.
- 9) You laugh at this because you are a fun loving person & everyone does it too.
- 10) You are probably going to send this to see who else falls for it.

Doctor: "Take the green pill with a glass of water when you get up.
Take the blue pill with 2 glasses of water after lunch.
Then just before going to bed, take the red pill with another glass of water."
Man: "Exactly what's my problem, doc?"
Doctor: "You're not drinking enough water."

Devotional material



Prayer



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Bible Reading



Fellowship by Phone

Philippians 4: 4-7 (NIVUK)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Future and Present

When normal services can resume is still an unknown. It could be some time away.

In the meantime for those with internet connections, many churches are conducting services and sharing them with their people and others using that medium. Roy Dallos, whom we know well, is videoing his sermons and making them available on YouTube. I will pass on those links when I get them. There are many other worship resources available on the internet so there should be no shortage of material to assist you in your devotions. Of course don't forget to check the CCF website for the worship aids there.

Not everyone has internet access but in addition to their Bibles, many people have printed study aids or Bible based devotional material. I will also circulate Roy's sermons in printed form.

It is a stressful time for many, being cooped up in a relatively confined space, even though it is your own home, with limited outings for essential activities. It is hard not meeting up with friends whenever and wherever you want to.

I am pleased that our fellowship has continued, adapting to circumstances, and the phones are running hot. I have both received and made phone calls just to say 'hello, how are you getting on'. I think that is the experience for all of us. If you are needing a chat, pick up the phone and ring someone you haven't spoken to for a while and catch up. It is not quite the same as a face to face natter, but it is safe (social distancing is in play) and is a familiar means of personal interaction.

We have a lot to thank God for, a lot to pray about and plenty of time to do so.

Prayer Points

Please pray

- for Aboriginal communities all over Australia
- for Aboriginal pastors across the nation
- for the Aboriginal community in the A.C.T. and Queanbeyan
- for the homeless.
- for all those feeling isolated, scared or lost.

