

West Worthing Evangelical Church, Rugby Road, Worthing.

# The Corona Chronicle

Sunday April 19th

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Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



West Worthing  
Evangelical Church



**Sunday** Exodus 15:2

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

**Monday** 2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**Tuesday** Psalm 73:26

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**Wednesday** John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world".

**Thursday** John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**Friday** Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.

**Saturday** Isaiah 40:28-31

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

## God's Megaphone

***"We can rest contentedly in our sins and in our stupidities....But pain insists on being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*** These words of C.S. Lewis in his book *"The Problem of Pain"*, published eighty years ago, speak powerfully to our generation today. Although always true they assume particular significance in the light of the pandemic our world is now experiencing.

We live in a fast-changing world of great scientific and technological advance, a world that extols the brilliance and achievements of men and women, that projects the confidence that the human race can handle any problem, can manage anything: in short that we are the captains of our fate. Then one little virus brings everything to a grinding stop.

So what is God saying to our world through this terrifying experience? Maybe he wants to remind us of our vulnerability and our dependence, that the ultimate control is not in our hands: that in the end we are all going to die, one way or another. Maybe he will use this to remind people that there is an eternity and that we really need to be sure where we are going when our last breath ends. Maybe, through this, he will urge people to search for Jesus Christ and certainty.

But will they listen? Maybe.

But what is God saying to his own people, the Church? Maybe he wants us, as well, to be reminded of the uncertainty and brevity of life, to remember the purpose for which he saved us, the desperate need of our contemporaries to hear the good news of peace with God through the cross. Maybe he wants to awaken us once again to a sense of urgency in reaching out with the gospel. And maybe he wants to bring home a realization of our own helplessness, that it's not our schemes and plans we need but the loving and irresistible power of God the Holy Spirit. Revival is not easy to pray for consistently and constantly but this is what we need.

Maybe God is saying something like this to his people.

But will we listen? Maybe.

Dennis R. Read

## Isa 49 v13-end

*Isaiah v15-16 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me."*

When under pressure, as Israel was at many times, they felt that God had abandoned them. They were suffering because of other nation's armies being inflicted upon them, being a vassal state and by famine or pestilence. God was teaching Israel to trust nothing but in God Himself.

False prophets were saying 'all will be well if we align ourselves with Egypt or Assyria. They are powerful they will protect us.'  
But Alliances meant bringing in other gods. False gods.

**As Israel once again turned back to the Lord these verses were God's response to Israel's cry that He had forgotten her.**

Many times in the past the nation had received countless blessings from God. Providing food and drink in the desert, escape from Egypt, winning victories over countless odds.

God was saying 'as a My people you have messed things up. You have suffered for it.  
But I still love you because you are precious to Me.'

### **For us Today**

Have we not been promised, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5)?

Did our Lord not promise "I am with you always, even to the end of the age," (Matthew 28:20)?

Yet, how often we, too, yield to feelings of abandonment, listening to the lie of the enemy of our soul as he whispers that we've been left adrift to fend for ourselves. The cry can rise up in our spirit, like Israel's, "He has forgotten."

One of the most intimate relationships is between a Mother and a nursing Child. It is ALMOST inconceivable that a mother would abandon her child. Yet we know sadly that it does happen.

God's relationship with His people is absolutely water-tight. He will never forget us.

In verse 16 we read that our names are inscribed on His hands.

Although tattooing was forbidden in scripture Lev. 19v28 our names are inscribed ie cut in God's hands.

Never to fade away. This is a **wonderful allegory** that the Lord will never forget about us.

Father, You never give a promise for nothing, and you promise never to leave us or forsake us. Yet especially in these times we can sometimes feel this.

Your promised presence is such a needed one, May these days be when confidence in Your promises may grow.

Use Your precious promises to increase our anticipation for the time when we'll see You face to face, in all Your glory. Be pleased to fill the waiting with Yourself!



# Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings for Sunday

## Opening Prayer by Richard Baxter

Eternal, Almighty, and most gracious God: heaven is Your throne, and earth is Your footstool; holy and reverend is Your name; You are praised by the angels of heaven, and in the gathering of Your church on earth. Despite our unworthiness, You have invited us through our mediator, Jesus Christ, to present ourselves and our prayers to You. Receive us graciously. Help us by Your Spirit. Let us stand in awe of You. Put Your law into our hearts, and write it on our minds. Let Your word come to us in power, and help us receive it in love, with attentive, reverent, and teachable minds. Through Your word, allow us to taste the flavour of eternal life. Make us fervent in prayer and joyful in praise. Help us serve You this day without distraction, that we may find that a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere, and that it is good for us to come near to God; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Richard Baxter, 1615-91

## Bible Reading Isaiah 49v14-18

### God Will Remember Zion

14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,  
And my Lord has forgotten me."

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
And not have compassion on the son of her womb?  
Surely they may forget,  
Yet I will not forget you.

16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands;  
Your walls are continually before Me.

17 Your sons shall make haste;  
Your destroyers and those who laid you waste  
Shall go away from you.

18 Lift up your eyes, look around and see;  
All these gather together and come to you.

As I live," says the Lord,  
"You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an  
ornament,  
And bind them on you as a bride does.

## Hymn

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in Heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upwards I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness;  
The great unchangeable I Am,  
The King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die,  
My soul is purchased with His blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Saviour and my God

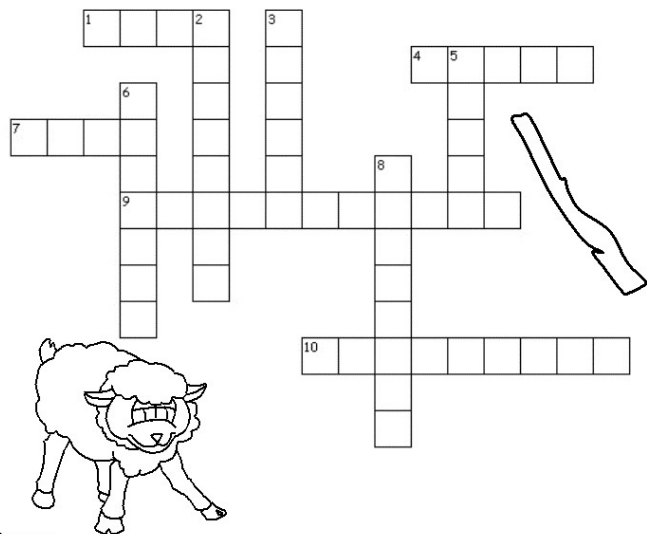
One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
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With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

Charitie Lees Bancroft



Battle, Breastplate,  
 Comfort, Darkness,  
 Ephesians, Fiery, Gospel,  
 Grace, Helmet, Jesus, Light,  
 Loins, Lord, Masters,  
 Obedient, Perseverance,  
 Power, Prayer, Preparation,  
 Principalities, Quench,  
 Rulers, Salvation, Security,  
 Spiritual, Strong,  
 Supplication, Timothy,  
 Truth, Utterance, Watching,  
 Wickedness, Withstand

## Psalm 23 Crossword



### Across

1. God is our shepherd—.
4. In this psalm David compares himself to this animal.
7. David doesn't \_\_\_ evil because God is with him.
9. This lesson is about Psalm Chapter \_\_\_.
10. You anoint my head with oil; my cup \_\_\_.

### Down

2. Surely \_\_\_ and love will follow me all the days of my life.
3. This is done in a ceremony by pouring oil on someone.
5. David talked about living in God's \_\_\_ forever.
6. The shepherd's main job is to do this for his sheep.
8. David used this profession to describe how caring God is.

I will never leave you  
 Nor forsake you

HEBREWS 13.5 NKJV

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