

JULY 26TH AND AUGUST 2ND 2020

THE LINK

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BELMONT NEWSLETTER

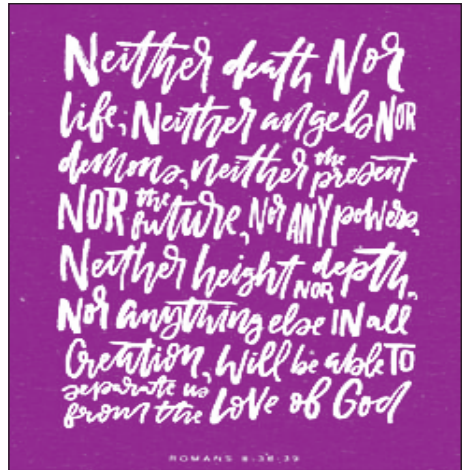
God at Our Side

A commentary on Romans 8: 37-39 by Maggi Dawn; New Daylight January to April 2012

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here, Paul makes it clear that Christians are not crushed by the weight of oppression that might otherwise rob them of their life and joy, but, instead, they live in hope and the sure knowledge that the presence of God will be theirs, eventually in full measure. The prospect of persecutions and even the actual experience is already inconsiderable by comparison to the experience of God that they can recall.

Christians are not defeated in their faith by the threat of bad things happening. Instead, they find themselves to be conquerors of those things. It is interesting that Paul does not even think of one of the most-asked questions in present-day theology: "If God is good, why does he let bad things happen?" The image we have derived from Romans 8 is one in which God does not simply sit like an arbitrator of events, doling out some benefits here and some heart aches there. No, he has stepped into our world and continues even now to breathe the groaning prayers through those who dare to pray. God, in this vision, does not 'let' bad things happen to us. Rather, when the chaos of the universe disrupts our fragile lives, God



sits with us, for better times ahead – for restored health, for domestic stability, for a motivated church, for all the good things that might and will happen. God does not 'allow' suffering; he faces it with us in tandem.

So we are not defeated and neither are we separated from God in bad times, for we know that, even though it is invisible to the eye, the presence of God is with us and within us, just as we are 'in Christ'.

Reflection

The knowledge that God's love will never leave us is, according to Paul, the source of our triumph.

'GROWING A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOR ALL'

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Sunday 26th July ~ eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Sentence. Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8.38–39.**

Collect. O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings. Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105.1-11; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.44-58.

Sunday 2nd August ~ ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sentence. The Lord is near to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desire of all that fear him, hears their cry, and saves them. **Psalm 145.18–19.**

Collect. O God, giver of life and health, whose Son Jesus Christ has called us to hunger and thirst for justice: refresh us with your grace, that we may not be weary in well-doing, for the sake of him who meets all our needs, Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings. Genesis 32.22–31; Psalm 17.1–7, 16; Romans 9.1–8 (9–16); Matthew 14.13–21.

Prayers for Today

pray for the world

- For peace and prosperity for South Sudan and all nations in political turmoil especially where it has led to violence.
- For all who are orphaned by war and conflict and their Support Agencies.
- For all who are afflicted and affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, and all those who are caring for and treating those who have the disease.
- For all governments; that they will surrender power for service.
- For all Asylum Seekers and Refugees, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and all Advocates and Support Agencies.
- For Foundation South Sudan, for finances, and scholarship recipients (Mach, Abhor, David, James).

More prayers are on page 4

pray for our church

- For every member of St Stephen's in this time of transition and time of reintroduction of the 'lock-down' restrictions.
- For our Chapel Prayer Team
- For our Synod Representatives and our Incumbency Committee Members as they await Diocesan directions.
- Pray with thanks for Reverend Liz, for her enthusiasm and for continuing to try new ways to lead us in these troubling times.
- To still strive to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus especially in this time of 'disconnection'.
- To strive to maintain our connection with the community of Belmont and with each other to proclaim the good news of Jesus.
- For the gifts, fruit and power of the Holy Spirit to be manifest amongst us.
- For the financial and other resources to enable Christ's mission.

Have you checked on a friend this week and are you taking care of yourself?

Messy Church Zooms Today (26th)

Our Kids' Church teachers, Kate Sharp, Jane Moloney, Anne Henderson and Pam Osborn have prepared **Messy Church on Zoom** for our children.

It will be held on the last Sunday in July (26th-today), August (30th) and September (27th). Messy Church will start at 10.30am, right after 9.30am Zoom Church.

The teachers have made up craft packs, these have been delivered to about 30 potential participants of **Zoom Messy Church**. The packs include instructions for the activities, extra puzzles and colouring sheets.

If you have not been connecting to Zoom Church, please let us know your email address, so we may send you the **Zoom Messy Church** invitation. The Church email address is: ststephensang2@iinet.net.au

We look forward to joining with our children in songs, craft activities, a reading and short sermon, in this exciting new journey in sharing our faith. **Rev Liz**.



Tell us what you've been doing during 'Covid time'

During the now lengthy time of largely being 'confined to barracks' many people have come up with creative and interesting things to do, maybe the kind of things you never thought about before, maybe you now have new skills.

Please tell us about what you have been doing, don't be shy! I am sure our readers would love to hear about your activities. Apart from that, it will help fill (I hope) the pages of the Link.

If you have access to the internet, could you email your story to me at pfyfe@iinet.net.au and it would be great if you could send some photos too. If you don't have internet access, you could write your exploits down and take them to the Church and leave them in the plastic box outside the Church office door, (be careful of the step) or if you have difficulty in getting out, perhaps you could ask a friend to drop it in for you. Please place the article in an envelope clearly marked, "Item for the Link".

I would also welcome general interest stories; places you've been to in the past, what you're hoping to do whenever normality returns. I look forward to being overwhelmed with stories. (Peter Fyfe, Link editor.)

Zoom 'Congregation' reached over 40 last Sunday July 19th

The number of participants joining the 'Zoom Congregation' has been steadily increasing, and last Sunday 40 people connected to Zoom Church. To Rev Liz and all the others who have worked hard to make Zoom Church happen, this number is most encouraging. But we must not forget about our parishioners who are unable to connect with Zoom Church, please keep them in the 'loop'.

Prayers for those in need

Could everyone please check through the 'pray for those in need' section on the next page to see if everyone listed still needs to be included, or, if you know anybody who should be added to the list: – please tell Peter Fyfe by email: pfyfe@iinet.net.au or phone: **0417 576 710**.

Is everyone getting The Link?

It seems some of our people may not be getting The Link, either by email or a printed copy. If you know of anyone who is unaware that copies of The Link and Rev Liz's Newsletter are available from a plastic box outside the Church Office, please let them know or ask them to phone the Church 5243 2557.

Prayers for Today

pray for those in need

- For Jack Laherty, Betty Clarke, Sheila Dawson, Tom Collett, John and Lyn Hilcke, Alison Walker, Sylvia Biviano, Betty Miller, Diana Smith, Zaher Mhannah, Rhoda Lynch, Ken Bampton, Jim and Jan Dowsett, Elijah Achiek, Rose Edwards, Shirley Dougherty, Wilf Seed, Charlotte MacEndry, Rev'd Sharon Valentino, Racheal Akuol, Lazarus Nyagumakori, Jim and Joy Durran, Den, Bernard Conradie and André, Yasi Anyieth, Dawn Tait, for Dawn's sister Coral, Amira Farag, Ashlinn McLean, (Helen's grand daughter), Anna Bell-Hughes and Ewan and for all others on our hearts and minds.
- For those we don't know but have no one to pray for them. ● For the Lonely and the Bereaved.
- For the Hungry and their Support Services.

pray for the wider church

- For the Primate of The Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.
- For Archbishop Philip Freier and the Diocese of Melbourne.
- For The Episcopal Church of South Sudan, St Stephens, Kakuma (The Revd Simon Majak) and Donholm (The Revd David Chol).
- For The Oodthenong Episcopal Area (The Rt Revd Kate Prowd).
- For The Geelong Archdeaconry (The Ven Jill McCoy).
- For The Bellarine and Corio Deaneries (Vacant).
- For School Chaplains.

pray for the community

- For the Wathaurung People, Elders past present, and emerging, all Aborigines, Torres Strait Islanders, and for reconciliation and treaty.
- For Hospital and Health Care Workers who are so vital at this time.
- For Fashion and Clothing Industry Workers
- For Day Care Centres.
- For those in the Teaching Profession.
- For Roslyn Road Primary School.
- For those within our influence who don't yet know Jesus.

Men's river side morning tea in the park starts

Last Saturday (18th) saw the start of a fortnightly men's get together morning tea. About eight men went along and enjoyed a cuppa and a chat. The 'venue' is in the park, on the river side, opposite the R 'n' R Cafe (59 Barrabool Road) at 10.00 am.

It's bring your own everything: bring your own tea or coffee, in an insulated mug, or thermos flask and mug, or you can buy a coffee at the Cafe opposite. If you like, bring something to eat to have with your drink. Also, bring your own chair so we can keep to social distancing.

There are tables, and we can keep to separate groups of ten if our numbers get too large.

For more information give Max Osborn a call on **5243 4122** or **0413 591 769**.

Hope you can come along to the next one on August 2nd for a catch up.



The articles which have been appearing on the front page of The Link for the past few months, are from the 'New Daylight' series which several of our parishioners use regularly for their daily devotions. Yvonne Fyfe has a 'cupboard full' of past copies. If anyone would like to have a copy (or two or three) from past years, please let Yvonne know **5243 7183** and she will leave some in the plastic box in front of the office or deliver them to you.

Daily Readings w/c 27.7

Prayer of the Week

O God, the protector of all that trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Monday July 27th

Morning

Ps 68: 1-20; Hosea 1; John 8: 31-47.

Evening

Ps 68 (21-23) 24-35; Ezekiel 36: (16-21)22-38; Romans 4: 1-12.

Tuesday July 28th

Morning

Ps 71; Hosea 2: 1-13; John 8: 48-59.

Evening

Ps 119: 65-88; Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Romans 4: 13-25.

Wednesday July 29th

Morning

Ps 69: 1-16; Hosea 2: 14-3: 5; John 9: 1-17.

Evening

Ps 69: 17-23 (24-30) 31-38; Ezekiel 37: 15-28; Romans 5: 1-11.

Thursday July 30th

Morning

Ps 72; Hosea 4: 1-9; John 9: 18-38.

Evening

Ps 73; Ezekiel 38: 14-23, 39:21-29; Romans 5: 12-21.

Friday July 31st

Morning

Pss (59) or 148, 149; Hosea 4: 10-5: 4; John 9: 39-10:18.

Evening

Pss (58, 79) or 144, 150; Ezekiel 40: 1-5 and 42: 15-43: 12; Romans 6: 1-11.

Saturday August 1st

Morning

Ps 74; Hosea 5 :5- 6: 3; John 10: 19-39.

Evening

Pss 75, 76; Ezekiel 47: 1-12, 48: 30-35; Romans 6: 12-23.

Daily Readings w/c 3.8

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, whose beloved Son for our sake willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross: give us courage and patience to take up our cross daily and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Monday August 3rd

Morning

Ps 78: 16-38; Hosea 6: 4-7: 7; John 10: 40-11-16.

Evening

Ps 78: 39-70; Lamentations: 1: 1-11a; Romans 7: 1-12.

Tuesday August 4th

Morning

Ps 80; Hosea 7: 8-16; John 11: 117-37.

Evening

Ps 81; Lamentations: 1: 11b-22; Romans 7: 13-25.

Wednesday August 5th

Morning

Pss 82, 84; Hosea 8; John 11: 38-54.

Evening

Pss 85, 87; Lamentations 2: 1-10; Romans 8: 1-8.

Thursday August 6th

Morning

Pss 86; Hosea 9: 1-12 (13-17); John 11: 55-12: 11.

Evening

Ps 88; Lamentations 2: 11-22; Romans 8: 9-17.

Friday August 7th

Morning

Ps 90; Hosea 10: 1-12 (13-15); John 12: 12-36a.

Evening

Ps 119: 89-104; Lamentations 3: 1-33; Romans 8: 18-27.

Saturday August 8th

Morning

Ps 89: 1-18; Hosea 11: 1-11; John 12: 36b-50.

Evening

Ps 89: 19-38; Lamentations 3: 34-66; Romans 8: 28-39.