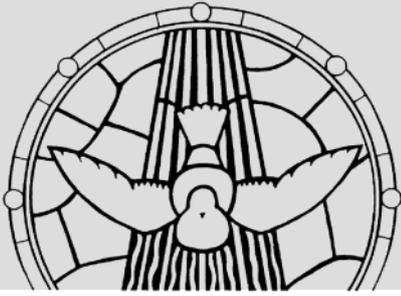


Newport-on-Tay

Church of Scotland Journal

19th April 2020



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

At a Time of Lockdown

As we enter another week of lockdown, I wanted to connect with you in case you need any help or support which I might be able to offer within all the present constraints that are limiting our movements and contacts. I am aware that we all desperately miss being able to worship in church together Sunday by Sunday, and even though we now have Zoom services, we still miss that physical connection and the fellowship we would normally share at tea and coffee after the service. I personally miss the daily interaction with members of the church family at Newport-on-Tay as well as the chance to meet my

colleagues I haven't seen for weeks and months. I also miss the joy that such meetings often bring. How we long to be physically together in worship again soon!

I think the Zoom services have proved to be a huge blessing for our parish and for others who have joined us in worship from elsewhere. We are so grateful to Catherine and her team plus other worship leaders for facilitating our online worship each Sunday while we remain restricted to our homes.

I had promised in one of our recent church magazines to begin a series of sermons on 'The Church in Exile' after Easter. However, I am sorry to intimate that I will be moving the planned series forward because of the lockdown and to allow the whole congregation to learn from the teachings I believe God would bring through the studies when we begin worship normally again.

During this challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic, I know that we can find ourselves experiencing such extremes of emotion as fear, anxiety, regret and other troubling circumstances both physical and mental. However, we need to be aware that the current health crisis is testing the resilience and resolve of people of the world and especially of Christian people. Many interests, hobbies and perhaps sports that are normally so much part of our lives have had to be put on hold, while we turn to other activities that our isolation allows. Are you having more time with family? More connections with nature, such as with the gardens? Are you trying to have more time to read books and especially your Bibles, that have often been on the shelves gathering dust? Do you think there is now more time for you to pray? O, how the Covid-19 pandemic and its related lockdown can change something positive about our Christian lives if we would just draw closer to God!

For many of us our faith is proving to be very significant as we try to adapt to our current circumstances and many theologians and other commentators are interpreting the arrival of Covid-19 in different ways. Some believe these are signs of the end time; others think God is using Covid-19 to pass a warning to sinful humanity and call us to repentance; and scientists believe it is one more virus that can always be expected in a world of species and limited beings.

Whatever the case, I think what we need do at this time is not conjecture what Covid-19 really means except that it is one way God is trying to speak some important message to a fallen world. It would be of great help for us to seek ways of reinventing ourselves, even our spiritual selves, by spending more time with God in case there are lessons he wants to teach us through the current circumstances.

Continued overleaf...

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Dear friends, we are living in between times. Between kingdom come and kingdom coming and as we live between these times, we need only to occupy ourselves with the things of God and build our spiritual experience so that when the kingdom finally arrives, we shall not be found wanting.

For all the emotional extremes of Holy Week just passed, and our overall faith in Jesus Christ, we are nevertheless aware that the despair, the confusion, the pain and the doubt, would finally lead to victory when the king of kings and Lord of Lords returns.

On Sunday mornings, when we worship God virtually or among loved ones within our homes, let us continue to proclaim the risen Christ because there is no greater hope or truth more profound than the fact Jesus died, was raised to life and now lives and reigns with the Father in heaven. And that he will come again to judge the world. There is no better answer to fear, despair, pain and sorrow than the soul-searching words of Jesus Christ: 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' John 16:33.

If there is anything at all I can do for you, or even if you simply want to chat on the phone, please don't hesitate to call me, either on the landline: (01382) 542893 or on my mobile: 07462144424. Would you be so kind as to please let me know of any member or parishioner who might appreciate a friendly phone call from my end.

Every Blessing,

Rev Dr Amos Chewachong

Daily Readings

Daily Readings for the week

Monday 20th to Saturday 25th April 2020

Monday 20th: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Tuesday 21st: 1 Corinthians 15: 50-58
Wednesday 22nd: 1 Peter 1:3-9
Thursday 23rd: 1 Peter 1:22-25
Friday 24th: Genesis 32:22-32
Saturday 25th: Isaiah 40:27-31

Quote for the Week

'Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next'

C. S Lewis

Online Zoom Services

We are running online services each Sunday morning at 11am via the online meeting platform Zoom. If you would like to be added to our Zoom mailing list for details of future Zoom services, or for more information about these services please email newportcos@btinternet.com with the subject heading 'Zoom Mailing List'.

Parish Register

Death

21st Mar Mrs Margaret Dawson
Newport-on-Tay Dist 34S

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

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Finance Giving to the Church during the Coronavirus situation

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to gather physically on a Sunday morning and all of our buildings, including manna, have been closed. Although the building is closed, the Church lives on! Like so many other businesses, the financial impact of this season is something we need to take into consideration. We are doing everything in our control to reduce our costs and manage our finances (including placing all our employees on furlough) and we pray for wisdom in how we respond to the challenges of this season together. There will be a significant impact on Church finances over these weeks so your continuing, or increased, generosity will be particularly important.

We are thankful for all those who give on regular basis to the church (by standing order, by cheque, by WFO and in the open plate) and those who Gift Aid their giving. It is only through the generosity of our members that we are able to serve God in our parish and beyond.

We appreciate that for some of our members this period of time may be very uncertain in terms of finances.

Please keep up to date with your financial giving via standing order or save your Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes and other financial gifts and bring them to church when we re-open. Obviously we still have significant items of expenditure ongoing during the period of building closure, so any income received in the interim would be greatly appreciated (and our thanks are due to those who have already done so).

If you wish to set up a Standing Order (whether weekly, monthly or quarterly) with your bank or would like a set of WFO envelopes please let me know and I will assist you with the necessary arrangements.

Should you wish to make a direct transfer by internet banking to our account, please get in touch (for security reasons it is not advisable to make these details openly available on our website). We are also currently investigating the benefits and cost of having a "Donate Now" link on our website or the ability to donate by text. Developments on this will be put on our website and in future editions of the Journal.

Cheques (payable to "Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland") are equally acceptable and should be sent (or delivered) to me; if you give me a note of your email address I will be able to acknowledge receipt of your donation.

With all the new restrictions on travel, social gatherings, concerts, restaurants and coffee shops, you may well find that your social life spending will have already gone down noticeably, so please consider making extra donations to the Church in addition to your regular giving. This will help us get through the Coronavirus crisis, meet our financial obligations and protect our staff.

However, we recognise that not everybody will be able to respond at what will be a challenging and uncertain financial time for many.

Thank you.

Philip Owen, Finance Convener,
address on back page.



"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

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Prayer Ministry

'For by grace you have been saved through faith and not of yourselves; it is a gift.' Ephesians 2 v 8

We do not feel worthy of God's gift and we never will be worthy of it.

BUT

Forgiveness is not based on who we are

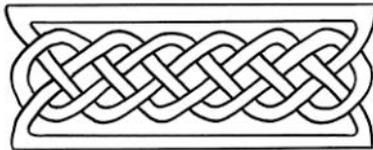
BUT

On who He is.

In the present chaos caused by the Coronavirus, let it be an opportunity for us, the people of God, to pray to our Almighty Powerful Father. He, who has given us the gift of prayer and all the authority through Christ to come into His presence with all our concerns.

If there is anything specific you would like prayed about please email us at

newportcos@btinternet.com



Young People

While the church is closed we are running some online activities for our young people. If you would like more information on this please email newportcos@btinternet.com

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Future Editions

We would like, where possible, to continue this publication over the coming weeks. If you have an email address to which we could send it, to save paper and time,

please email newportcos@btinternet.com with the subject 'Journal Mailing List'.

If there is anything you would like to see published here, news items, poems, pictures, etc., please email them to newportcos@btinternet.com for inclusion in future Journals.

*Draw near to God
and he will draw near to you.
James 4 v 8*

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