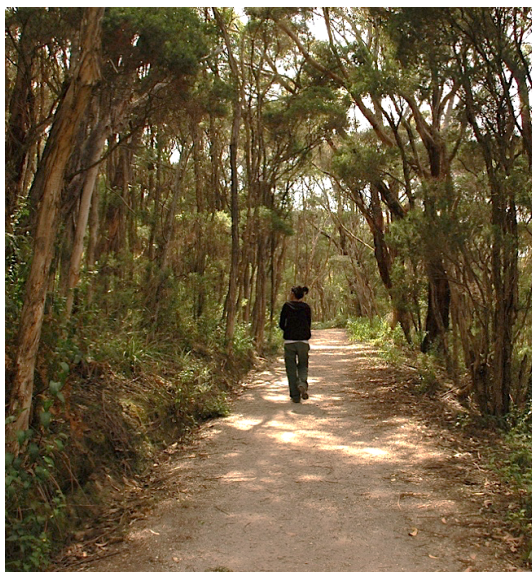


Introduction To Worship

26 July 2020 – Pentecost 8



It's been quite a week, lockdown, isolation, masks, high numbers of cases of Covid-19 and the possibility of a vaccine, a roller coaster of feelings and plenty of time to miss loved ones and ponder.

I'm wondering whether this is a good time to embrace a project of some sort.

Knitting, reading the books we've put aside or making or creating something.

We considered lacuna during the first lockdown with time to live like a monk and spend time alone with God. Perhaps during this second lockdown which may drag on for a while, each of us could invest in a journal, which could be an old exercise book or a bound book with blank pages or printing paper. Whatever works best.

Perhaps we could begin to write or collect something we can share during the September Communion Service, that can be part of the worship. It could be sharing how you've worshipped God at home since March and a highlight of that worship. It could be an inspirational story or poem or a song. It could be a YouTube link for a hymn we could share in the written materials. We could share some of our treasure, or pearls we have discovered over our lifetime faith journey or stories about encounters with others that have changed our lives or deepened our faith.

The activity for the Young at Heart is to write a grace or blessing to be said at mealtime.

Families are invited to help young children to write a letter to God and draw a picture of God or Jesus.

These could also be shared as treasures.

It would be encouraging and comforting for all of us to experience this sharing of our treasures.

As you ponder and find something to share, ask yourself a question. What is my treasure? What is my pearl?

Has there been a moment in my life and faith journey that's been a highlight? If you are happy to share, please email your contributions to Margaret Cosstick on the notices email address.

notices@mountview.unitingchurch.org.au

This Sunday we will explore memory, journey and horizons, and some of Julian Norwich's sayings, such as: *All will be well* and how that compares with what Paul said in Romans.

We will also have YouTube music videos, stories about hymns and a Scottish Hymn about a Hazelnut, based on one of Julian Norwich's prayerful encounters with God.

I've included the music for the hymn on the last page of the worship materials.

Blessings
Rev Tina



Mountview Worship @ Home

Sunday 26 July 2020



Welcome To Our Service

Good morning or afternoon. I invite you to make yourself comfortable, light your candle if you have one, and make a cup of tea or coffee. This week we are focusing on Paul's letter to the Romans and on our faith journey. God's love and care for us is one of the themes. I hope the worship blesses and sustains you.

We acknowledge those who were here before us, the first inhabitants of this place
We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.



Call To Worship

Who will separate us from the Love of Christ?

Nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

Hymn: Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven – Helen Jackson [3:15]

[Connected: Please click the link; Printed: Please contemplate the lyrics below]

<https://youtu.be/dl-7VVK0CB4>

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise the everlasting king!</p> | <p>3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
widely as his mercy flows!</p> |
| <p>2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
glorious in his faithfulness!</p> | <p>4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise the high eternal one!</p> |

5. Angels, help us to adore him,
 you behold him face to face;
 sun and moon, bow down before him,
 dwellers all in time and space:
 praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
 praise with us the God of grace!

Lyrics: Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847 alt.

Music: John Goss 1800-80

based on Psalm 103

Song Copyright: Public Domain

Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team

Prayers of Adoration, Invocation and Confession

Lord our God, we sing our praises to you,
 we proclaim your wondrous deeds in our lives.
 You Lord are always there for us, we need not fear,
 nothing can separate us from your love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 neither troubles or illness or lockdown or life or death
 nothing can separate us from your love.

We give you our thanks and praise.

Jesus our Lord,
 your teachings reassure us that all will be well
 the kingdom of God grows
 the kingdom of God expands
 the kingdom of God is valuable
 and is worth everything.
 You Lord gift us the kingdom of God within
 and call us closer to God

We give you our thanks and praise.

Holy Spirit
 you help us when we do not know how to pray
 or what to pray for
 You intercede for us
 with sighs too deep for words

We give you our thanks and praise.

Come Holy Spirit, come.
 And Lord our God,
 you comfort us during these challenging times
 and lead us on.
 Help us come before you with all that's on our hearts
 If we have hurt another, forgive us
 if we need to forgive, give us grace to forgive
 Help us forgive ourselves
 Lord, we pray for healing and reconciliation
 Change our hearts O God as we come before you in silence

Silence

Hear then. Christ's words of grace to us
 "Your sins are forgiven."

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Tell Out My Soul – Helen Jackson [2:28]

<https://youtu.be/gdeCoLdgHXo>

Lyrics: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: Walter Greatorex;
Based on Luke 1: 46–55 in The New English Bible

Lyrics: © T. Dudley-Smith / Hope Publishing Co. Permission to stream the music obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-620587 [MUC]. Music Copyright: Public Domain. Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team. All Rights Reserved.

Scripture Readings

Romans 8: 26-39

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 8:27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. 8:31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 8:32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 8:33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 8:34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 8:39 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.

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

13:31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 13:32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

13:33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 13:46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 13:48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad."

13:49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 13:50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

13:51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

13:52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The story behind the hymn *Abide With Me*

It is a sustained call for God's personal presence and was written by Henry Lyte when the words '*Abide with me*' came to him when visiting a friend who was ill. He suffered from poor health and travelled for his health.

He was minister and continued with ministry, writing this hymn just before he died from TB.

Abide With Me – Audrey Assad [4:38]

https://youtu.be/84YASWe3_2Q

Lyrics: Henry Francis Lyte alt. Public Domain;
from 'Inheritance', http://smarturl.it/AA_Inheritance
Published to YouTube by the artist, Audrey Assad, with copyright licence attributions

For The Young At Heart



Giving thanks to God, as our families sit down for a meal is an opportunity to come before God and be grateful for all God has given us. You are welcome to either write or share your favourite grace with members of the congregation. I've included two different grace's as an example of how different they can be.

Try singing this grace to 'Frere Jacques'

For this good food, for this good food,
For our friends, for our friends
And this time together, and this time together,
Thank you, God, thank you, God.

*Morag Wilkinson, from Blessed be our Table,
Neil Paynter, Wild Goose Publications*

Or try saying this grace

Strong Sheltering God

Strong, sheltering God,
we bless you for all the beautiful things of home,
warmth and shelter when the wind outside is bitter,
food for the body and for the soul,
treasured gifts and treasured memories,
stability, acceptance and care.
We bless you for the chance to be ourselves,
for the tasks that weave the pattern of our days,
for the sweet, familiar round of ordinary things.
blessed are you strong, sheltering God.

*Kathy Galloway, from Blessed be our Table,
Neil Paynter, Wild Goose Publications*

Nearer, My God, To Thee – Acapeldridge [2:23]

<https://youtu.be/I5WLZAVKB88>

Lyrics: Sarah Adams; Music: Lowell Mason;
Artist: Acapeldridge, <https://acapeldridge.com/>
Posted to YouTube by the artist, with song attributions

Sermon

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.



“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”

Julian of Norwich

Julian of Norwich lived in the Middle Ages between 1343-1416 and wrote a book called:

Revelation of Divine Love. After spending her childhood living through the plague and being widowed as a young woman, she made the decision to live as an anchoress in a tiny cell or room within a convent where she wrote and offered spiritual counsel. Her world seemed small yet was immense spiritually. She knew God loved her and her book made her a famous mystic. (A mystic is someone who seeks by contemplation and self-surrender to obtain unity with or absorption into God and believes truth is beyond our intellect and can only be known through God's revelation.) She lived her life believing all will be well and chose to have an attitude that approached life with openness and hope, rather than fear and dread.

In the same way Paul, well educated, wealthy, powerful, travelled all over the known world sharing his new found faith with all the churches, preaching the gospel and writing letters to churches. Paul wrote in Romans, *‘all things work together for those who love God and who are called to his purpose.’* He knew all will be well.

Chapter eight of Romans witnesses to God's revelation to him. He was convinced *‘God is for us’* and *‘nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.’* *‘Not hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, death or life, rulers or anything present or to come’*, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Corrie Ten Boom, her father and sister and other family members were Christians, imprisoned by the Nazis for hiding Jews in their home in the Netherlands during WWII. Their story is told in a book called: *The Hiding Place*.

This is an extract:

It grew harder and harder. Even within these four walls there was so much misery, too much seemingly pointless suffering. Every day something else failed to make sense, something else grew too heavy. But as the rest of the world grew stranger, one thing became increasingly clear. And that was the reason for the two of us to be here. Why others should suffer we were not shown. As for us, from morning to until lights out, whenever we were not in ranks for roll call, our Bible was the centre of an ever-widening circle of health and hope.

Like waifs clustered around a blazing fire, we gathered about it, holding out our hearts to its warmth and light.

The blacker the night around us grew, the brighter and truer and more beautiful burned the Word of God.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

I would look about us as Betsie read, watching the light leap from face to face. More than conquerors.

It was a wish. It was a fact.

Casper, Corrie's father, died in Scheveningen ten days after being imprisoned. Betsie and Corrie were sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp in Germany. Corrie's beloved sister died in the concentration camp in December 1944. Corrie was released that month and returned to the Netherlands where she was reunited with family. After the war Corrie advocated reconciliation as a means of overcoming the scars caused by the Nazi occupation. She travelled the world as an evangelist, motivational speaker and social critic.

She found a way to rise above her experiences of suffering

I wonder what convinces each one of us that God is for us and nothing can separate us from the love of God? There is a moment for each one of us when we are convinced. God's love cannot be diminished. In falling and rising again and again we are always kept in God's precious love, held by God, loved by God and sustained by God. God leads us into love, cares for us and lifts our spirits when we are down. God helps us on our way.

Ponder about who or when or what in your past convinced you God is for you and all will be well.

Was it someone who was a role model, such as parents or grandparents or a great aunt or uncle or Sunday school teacher or teacher, a coach or mentor or near-death experience or recovery from illness or coming through challenging times or grief or an encounter with God? When did you first know God loved you?

When did you know God was for you and all will be well?

I invite you to ponder on these questions and write them in your diary.

My parents died within eighteen months of each other between 2015-17. I've mentioned I trekked to Everest Base Camp. That was in 2017, a month before my father died. It was a life changing trip. I came seconds away from dying when I fell off a mountain near Everest and it was the prayers of others who saved me, which prompted me to put out my foot as I was carried down a ledge to certain death, where last minute my foot hit a rock at the end of the ledge, where I came to an abrupt halt and didn't go over. I learnt about surrender to God in that moment and that all will be well for me. Yet it was the last day of the trek that turned out to be the most difficult, where I walked twelve hours in the cold rain. This is an extract from my book:

Everest Base Camp at 61:

I was walking in a forest and couldn't see through the rain, the path was muddy and mist was rising from amongst the trees and undergrowth. It was beautiful. I would have enjoyed it except

I was chilled to the bone and had Khumbu cough.

It was Mother's Day. I was alone and despair began to take root in me. It was just so hard. Today was going to be a twelve-hour walk, way past my limit and home seemed so far away. My children would have taken me out to a restaurant today, if I'd been home and bought me presents, hugged me, thanked me, and loved me.

My husband would have bought me a funny card. I missed them dreadfully. I nearly slipped and rammed my pole into the ground to steady myself and used it to help me get back onto solid ground. My boots were covered in mud. I tried to stay focused, but it was easy to drift with my thoughts. I kept on going.

I saw a bent over woman ahead of me, her skirt and legs just visible under two large sacks of rice that were somehow balanced on her back. It was pouring and she was sheltering under a large black umbrella.

I hovered a bit to the side of the path and she took a step, a bit to the other side of the path, and then another step forwards.

It didn't take me long to catch up with her and say, 'Namaste.'

She looked up and managed to put both hands together, still holding the umbrella, and say, 'Namaste.'

She smiled and then signalled with her hands for me to come closer and put her hand on my shoulder gently moving me beside her and under the umbrella. She patted my cheek and tears came to my eyes. I must have looked forsaken and cold, a bit like a drowned cat. She patted my cheek again, said something in Nepali, put her umbrella under her arm and rubbed my hands with hers. Her hands were nice and warm. I felt loved.

We walked on together until I began to worry about whether I was slowing her down and about her carrying such a load but didn't want to refuse her care for me. She didn't seem to be in a hurry.

I sensed it was more important to her to be kind to me and help me.

I relaxed and walked on with her, sheltering under her umbrella.

When the rain stopped, I put my hands together, 'Namaste.'

She smiled, putting her hands together over mine, 'Namaste.'

When she smiled I felt the warmth of her love and I hope she felt mine. She was my mother that day.

My real mother had died about sixteen months previously.

We walked on beside each other for a little while, occasionally smiling at each other. Then she waved and went on ahead of me and when she looked back I smiled and waved. All my feelings of misery had departed.

There are moments in life when we feel loved by God through another person and its often a perfect stranger who appears at the moment of our greatest need, like this lady from Nepal appeared when I was in need.

Unconditional love like this convinces us we are not alone, that all will be well, and God is for us.

It helps us understand a little more about the kingdom of God. That tiny mustard seed that is sowed in a field and grows into a mighty tree, so big it shelters many birds. This is God's kingdom, where a tiny seed takes root in our hearts and grows, where the love of God in our heart increases so much we are able to overcome all and love others with an unconditional love that shelters others through their storms of life so that they see God working through us and come to know they are loved by God. Through our love they come to know God is for them and become convinced all will be well. They, like us, come to know the great love of God is like a treasure and a pearl, and are willing to risk all to hold it fast in their heart. Many all of us have been blessed like this and may God work through us to bless others. Nothing else in life can compare to owning that treasure or pearl within us.

When I was a child my grandmother made bread and her kitchen was filled with the smell of rising dough and cooking bread. It was a comforting smell. I wonder what the smell of Jesus would be like?

Perhaps his presence is like a room full of fragrant roses. His presence in our lives is like bread and roses, his teachings are comforting and offer life and inspiration and convince us all will be well.

When we look back, we understand how God has sustained us throughout our life. Sometimes it's a loved one's love and presence over our lifetime that brings us closer to God and reassures us. Roslyn White in her book *Stammerings* wrote this poem to celebrate her wedding anniversary:

Celebration of Love

*Love sees clearly
with eyes wide open and alive,
seeks kindnesses to keep
and to caress.*

*Love chooses patience over haste,
companions dreams not fully formed,
trusts places dimly lit
will reveal treasure there.*

*Love chooses to forgive,
to shrink the mountain of offence,
into plains of growth and melody,
the common key, the song of love.*

*When sadness calls, tears
are stitched in prayer.
Fallow darkness
in time bedecked with fruit.*

*Deep wells flow,
to places open and expectant,
delighting,
in the waterfall of grace.
Love relieves resentment,
and envy finds no home.*

*Wisdom cushioned by desire
and invitation cossetted, comes
to hearts awake to gift and mystery.
Crowning memories held and treasured
are the breath of God in us.
Love and beauty,
touched and shared
perfume the thankful heart.*

Stories of our life are like treasures and pearls. They bring us closer to God.
"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well"

The Lord be with you; **And also with you**

Rev Tina

All Will Be Well – The Gabe Dixon Band [4:15]

<https://youtu.be/g9CQ1o5do78>

*Writers: Dan Wilson, Gabe Dixon;
Published to YouTube by diectmgmt08 with attributions*

or

a hymn suggested by Janet and Margot

Whispering Hope – Daniel O'Donnell and Mary Duff [3:22]

https://youtu.be/uc0_ICla5ks

*Irish Artists (Gospel);
Published to YouTube by Memories64 without attributions*

Offering Prayer

about offering up ourselves and giving thanks to God for all we have

**Lord and giver of every good thing
we bring to you our lives and gifts for your kingdom
all for transformation through your grace and love
made known in Jesus Christ our Saviour, amen**



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

John Williams has prepared the Prayers of the people for you today

Common with all the nations of the world, COVID-19 is moving across Africa. The Republic of Congo, Gabon, and the islands of Sao Tome and Principe are realising that the problem is also theirs. Sao Tome and Principe have had an early exposure through its popular tourist trade. Let us pray for these nations.

Dear Lord, you know our concerns for the COVID-19 virus, and that it threatens these nations of Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe even more so than us due to crowded living conditions and an unreliable supply of clean water for washing. May the governments gain full control from contra political groups so that the people may be given clear non-political advice regarding procedures adopted to combat the virus. Let there be no delay in obtaining medical and virus protection clothing from those richer nations manufacturing it. Change the attitude of richer nations to be more able to help poorer nations. In your name. Amen.

We move to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Blackburn and pray. All-embracing God, help priest Father Terry as he ministers to the St. Thomas parishioners on-line, administering the Sacraments by faith of spirit instead of face to face. May they sustain this remote, yet close relationship and grow daily in faith and understanding. In your name. Amen.

In our own connections, we visit the Hawthorn West Congregation in Power Street. This congregation is struggling for survival with no full-time ministerial placement and no on-line services of their own. Dear Lord, help this group of your people to maintain their fellowship through telephone, email messages and Zoom chats. May they all know that no matter what, you are there, and will remain so. In your name I ask this. Amen.

Uniting AgeWell's Home Help Services are under pressure maintaining their services to shut-ins in need. As with all AgeWell work, maintaining staffing rosters is problematical. Please, help all to understand the need for strict compliance with distancing rules and wearing appropriate protective items. May those waiting test results do so without fear. Sustain their hope for a positive result. Dear Lord, help every one of us to be constantly alert to the anti-virus protocols and obey them, for our own protection and for that with whom we must have contact. I ask this in your name. Amen

Compassionate God, please sit with each person wrestling with this demon virus. Give them comfort and assurance. Mitigate their sense of loneliness in isolation. May they know that behind the gloves, that gown, face shield and mask is a smiling face, endeavouring to convey love and support and healing. In your name I ask this. Amen

Sustain those who have to diligently carry out their duties burdened with the protective gear. Grant them a full measure of grace under stress. Please, Lord, that is my request. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer. Let each of us dig deep into our relationship with God to find an ever-deepening meaning within the Lord's Prayer as we say it.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours – now and for ever. Amen.

The story behind the hymn *Lead Kindly Light*

John Henry Newman wrote this hymn. He found himself in a boat sailing from Palermo Sicily to Marseille, France, while recovering from being dangerously ill with a fever. He had experienced hardship and heartbreak in life and at times was nervous and anxious. He was also a man who was an Anglican Priest and then became a Catholic priest and became a cardinal, a well-known theologian and writer.

Lead, Kindly Light – Audrey Assad [4:11]

<https://youtu.be/jXqrE2mXcTc>

*Lyrics: Heavily inspired from the original by John Henry Newman
Published to YouTube by the artist, Audrey Assad, with copyright licence attributions*

Dismissal

Go out into the world in the power of the spirit and in all things at all times remember Christ is with you.
Make your life your worship to the praise and glory of God. Amen

May The Feet Of God – Helen Jackson [1:37]

[Connected: Please click the link; Printed: Please contemplate the lyrics below]

<https://youtu.be/YhiG-Vj8CGU>

May The Feet Of God

May the feet of God walk with you,
and his hand hold you tight.
May the eye of God rest on you,
and his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
and his breath give you life.
May the Child of God grow in you,
and his love bring you home.

*Lyrics: Aubrey Podlich; Music: Robin Mann;
Lyrics: © A. W. Podlich; Music: © R. Mann; Video: © 2020 the Multimedia team
Permission to reprint lyrics and stream the music obtained from ONE LICENSE #A-620587 [MUC].*

Rev Tina, for Mountview Uniting Church

I have provided extra resources below to accompany you on the week's journey. Rev Tina

Extra Worship Resources



Fog on the beach at Lorne

Lately my devotional has focused on the Celts and monks on Iona. These are some extracts.

'As Christ talked, the crowds felt this world and the next mingle.' The kingdom of God touched the world and the doors between the two worlds opened. It was a thin place. *'The psalms are full of stars voices and cedars speech.'* There is sheer beauty in the psalms. A man named Fatee from Egypt was dying from a rare blood disorder. He said: *'Read the Psalms and they will keep you.'* The psalms are filled with words that help us find silence within our hearts. The first psalm begins with the words; "Blessed is the man or woman.....". We all have our favourite psalms that have sustained us over the years. I have my great-grandfather's bible, H.W. Lyndon from Tarnagulla 1898. Its earmarked at psalms 40-44, all beautiful and sustaining psalms. One of my favourites is psalm 84. Even the sparrow has found a home.

Perhaps this second lockdown offers each of us an opportunity to delve deeper into our faith and look back over our faith journey. One of my favourite books during my late thirties was a book called: *A Common Philosophy* by Leunig & Karl Rahner. Perhaps it's worth keeping a journal over the next four to six weeks of lockdown and fill it with ponderings about your faith journey over the years or stories about finding hope or songs you've listened to that have been comforting or poems or drawings or a pressed flower or photos, whatever you consider is a treasure.

Karl Rahner wrote about the infinite horizon in *A Common Philosophy*:

In the fact that I experience my infiniteness radically, I reach beyond this finiteness and experience myself as a transcendent being, as spirit. The infinite horizon of human questioning is experienced as a horizon which recedes further and further the more answers I discover.

I've seen people sitting on beaches, pondering about the horizon of the sea that seems to stretch on forever into the infinite.



We can never know where it goes until we let go of the shore and set off on a journey across the ocean to unknown places we've never seen before. I'm often left with questions. Where are the limits of ourselves? Where are limits of God? We are born, we live, we die, and we live on. Does our journey have a destination and what is that destination?

I once met a monk from the Little Family of the Resurrection. His name was brother Angelo. His monastery was on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. He sat next to me on a flight from Rome to Israel. He had an elegant body, with long legs, arms and fingers, was tall, wore a long white robe and had a long silver beard. His order was a closed order, but he choose to speak with me and share the wisdom he had gained over a lifetime. He said, 'this life is preparation for the next life, our eternal life with God in heaven.' I've pondered about his words over the years.



I wonder how life prepares us for the next life and what our real purpose is? I wonder whether we need to let go of something in order to enter the mystery of God and find what we most long for.

Karl Rahner wrote in *A Common Philosophy*: "The infinite horizon, which is the term of transcendence and which opens us to unlimited possibilities of encountering this or that particular thing, cannot itself be given a name. For this name would situate the term among the realities which are understood within the horizon of this term and this source. Indeed, we can and must reflect upon the mysterious and the incomprehensible which can never be situated within our system of coordinates and can never be defined by being distinguished from something else."



Leunig – The Garden Gate Used by permission

Karl Rahner also wrote:

'Hope is a process of constantly eliminating the provisional in order to make room for the radical, and pure uncontrollability of God.'

It is the continuous process of destroying that which appears in order that the absolute and ultimate truth may be intelligible as comprehended, and love may be that which is brought about by our love'



Rembrandt – Philosopher

The Hazelnut

Julian of Norwich wrote about a tiny hazelnut, that God made it, God loves it and God keeps it.

This revelation has been made into a Scottish Hymn called the Hazelnut.

Try holding a hazelnut in the palm of your hand as you say the words. These are the words:

A Small Thing Like A Hazelnut (*music on last page of resources*)

1. A small thing like a hazelnut
lay in my open hand,
and God disclosed three truths to me
that I might understand:
God made it, God loves it,
and God will always care.
God made it, God loves it,
and God will always care for it.
2. I marvelled that this little thing
reveals how God can be
our maker, lover, keeper, now
and for eternity!
God made you, God loves you,
and God will always care;
God made you, God loves you,
and God will always care for you!
3. Until my heart is one with God,
its aching will not cease,
and so I rest, held close by God,
these three truths bringing peace:
God made me, God loves me,
and God will always care;
God made me, God loves me,
and God will always care for me!

Lyrics: Rae. E. Whitney

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Music: Iain D. Cunningham

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For The Young At Heart

When I taught RE and CRE to Preps I encouraged the children to write letters to God and draw pictures of God or Jesus and we made a little book. I'm wondering whether you'd like to ask your children or grandchildren to write a letter to God or draw a picture of God or Jesus or do both. If they want to and you are happy about it, they are welcome to share what they've done with members of Mountview Uniting, during the September recorded Communion service.

Prayer For Remembrance

Lord, help me to remember the love I've received along the way,
and to be remembered for the love I have given.
Help me to understand how short the journey is
and slow me down, so I don't pass any of it by.
And if you grant me the grace of a long life,
grant me the greater grace
to always remember who I am
and who it is that loves me...



Christians throughout the world have been invited to say the Lord's Prayer every day

Please join them:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Rev Tina, for Mountview Uniting Church



<https://www.mountviewuca.org/worship.html>

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HAZELNUT

86 86 66 68

F Am Dm , Bb F ,

A small thing like a ha-zel - nut lay in my o - pen hand, and

F Am Dm , Bb C7 F ,

God dis-closed three truths to me that I might un-der-stand: God

Bb F/A , Gm7 C ,

made it, God loves it, and God will al - ways care; God

Bb F/A , Gm7 C7 F

made it, God loves it, and God will al - ways care for it.

Music Iain D. Cunningham (b.1954)
arranged Compilers

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