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Weekly Letter - 7 May 2023

John 14.1-14

“I will come”

Central to your belief in the goodness of God is that there are very good reasons to hope. By hope we mean, not the conviction that something will turn out well according to my interests, but the certainty that something makes sense.

This hope – your Christian hope is that Christ will come. With all your brothers and sisters in Christ, you hope Jesus Christ will return. Why? Because it makes complete sense, for how could the God of life, who loves you and sustains you, not return?

The journey of hope requires that you do not stand still, do not become side tracked or seduced by false ideas which will cause you to lose your sense of honest hope.

As you know there are two steps you can make every day to sustain your genuine hope in the future.

Firstly, be honest with yourself, and regularly ask yourself, are there aspects of my life which are ‘unchristian’, or ‘misguided’, that cause me to be so seduced by false ideas? To engage in honest self-reflection takes courage, honesty and a good dose of humility. All humans deep down know there is no freedom without truth.

Secondly, you know you need the power of God’s Spirit to guide you on this journey of hope, for without God’s guidance we all would be fumbling around in a dark forest, aimlessly going around in circles – our circles. So, to be hopeful do be reflective and pray.

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Dr Noel Davies. We will celebrate Communion.

Bible Readings: John 14.1-14: 1 Peter 2.1-10.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Christ Well

Prayers for every household– we will pray for Manselton Road nos. 125-185



**King's Coronation Garden Party 6th May 12-3pm
at St John's Day Centre**

BBQ, Cream Tea and entertainment

Everyone welcome

Tea and Chat – Tuesday 9th May Christ Well – 2pm-4pm - Who are you?

(on 6th June there will be Glass Painting. Please start to collect small jars for this)

Swansea Food Banks

Stocks are falling low in all the Swansea food banks due to very high demand, and an urgent request has been made for the following items :

coffee (instant), tins of soups, potatoes, tomatoes, custard, rice pudding and meat
packet soups, stock cubes and sauces (jars of pasta sauce) instant pasta and noodles:
squash or fruit juice, jam:
washing up liquid, shampoo, shower gel.

If you would like to respond to this appeal any donations of goods, or cash, can be left at Christ Well on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning, and will be delivered by Carol, our Office Administrator.

I saw you in the food bank queue

I saw you in the food bank queue, waiting your turn.
I saw you asleep in a doorway, a newspaper as a blanket.
I saw you turn down the heating and put on another jumper.
I saw you alone and weeping, hurt by loss and sorrow.

I want to serve you, to anoint your head and feet in oil,
to live a life worthy of the calling you lay before me.
And here are your feet, tired from the queue in the food bank;
here you are, dirty, cold, hungry and lonely – everywhere I look –
in need of food and warmth and love.

Servant God, who lives among us,
help me to serve you wherever you are in the world.
When I see one hurt or in pain,
give me the strength and courage to serve you,
to share, to mend, to listen, to comfort,
and also to shout about the systems that hurt,
that limit flourishing and freedom.

May I better serve you where your need is greatest,
where your people are in pain and suffering,
where the world needs love, and my neighbours silently cry for freedom.

Matthew Prevett

(URC Prayer Handbook 2023)