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WEEKLY LETTER – 13 NOVEMBER 2022

Luke 21.5-19

'By your endurance you will gain your lives' v.19

As we listen to the daily news, it is all too clear that human beings continue to relentlessly seek to possess, and acquire power. Possession and power ensure that you become shackled and imprisoned in endlessly demanding more. Or, put it another way, people demand that they become god, and thereby free themselves from God and their obligations to their neighbour. For people who possess and acquire power so often believe the world is centred around them. Once again we are reminded of Jesus' words, "whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life ...will save it". Mark 8.35. in other words, we are not created to be the architect of our life.

All of us have been constantly tempted to believe we need to ensure everything is under control, that we have everything we need, so that I am well protected and not affected byFaith and love do not include control or possession.

This I suspect you believe, but like us all at times find it difficult to put into practice. For sure, Jesus Christ knows these temptations. However, if we see each day as another opportunity to cultivate our love for God, have a greater desire to trust and continue to seek truth, perhaps step by step we will learn to endure?

Very rarely does St Benedict get strict with his brothers but at one point he writes," you must not murmur, nor should you complain. Pray yes, but no complaining!" Perhaps this great and civilizing saint wrote those words because he knew that tough things happen to all of us, for no one escapes, but, "by your endurance you will gain your lives".

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, at 10.30 am will be led by

Rev Frieder Kreschnak

Bible Readings: Isaiah 2.1-5: Colossians 3.12-17.

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Hall Street, Llanelli.



An Invitation

To attend a short Service of Remembrance

attended by the Lord Mayor of Swansea at

St. John's Community Garden, Caer Rowland Street, SA58NY

at

11 am on Thursday, 10th November

At this Service there will be an opportunity to see the upgrade of the War Memorials

PEACE (Isaiah 65.17-25: Psalm 98: 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13: Luke 21.5-19)

Lord, we want peace
we want our families to stop arguing
we want our politicians to stop squabbling
we want our nations to live peaceably alongside each other.
We want wolves and sheep to feed together.

But Lord we know that sometimes we have to fight for peace
sometimes, hard as it is, we have to
face down the bully sometimes we have to take courage
and find a strength we never knew we had
because without justice there can never be peace.

So, Lord, we pray for that love
which holds together peace and justice
and will alone remain
when all the nations are no more
and all our arguments have ceased
and you, O God, are all in all.

James Ashdown (URC Prayer Handbook 2022)

Notes from the Wales National Synod – Autumn Meeting - Saturday 15th October 2022

The meeting was held in hybrid session with delegates at the venue in Llandridod Wells and also on Zoom, and commenced with opening worship led by Simon Walkling, Moderator.

Minutes of the Spring Synod Meeting.

A copy of the draft minutes of the Spring Meeting had been circulated and were accepted as a true record and signed off.

Matters arising - Change of Wales Synod Structure.

Synod Meeting approves the renaming of the Synod Officers Meeting to Synod Support Team Meeting - Agreed.

ECO Church Initiative

As part of the scheme the Synod are encouraging all churches to appoint an ECO Friend who will act as main contact and communicate with other churches within the scheme to discuss and share ideas. Currently eight churches have achieved either the bronze or silver status. The aim of the URC National Synod is to reduce our overall carbon footprint by 2030. The Synod is encouraging churches to focus on the issue and have at least one church service a year where Environment and Green initiatives are at the heart of the service. Churches are also encouraged to engage with the community and local environmental groups together with local councillors and MP's to highlight the concerns and issues.

Peace in Korea

A young man from Korea spoke about the difficulties and issues surrounding the ongoing hostilities between North and South Korea and the potential political problems. Thousands of Christians from both countries have raised the problems and are driving the peace initiative through the Christian Church across the world.

The United Reformed Church National Synod of Wales affirms its support for a lasting peace settlement to end the Korea war and instructs the Synod Moderator to sign the Korea Peace Appeal on its behalf. Agreed.

The meeting ended with Simon leading closing worship.

Ken Wheeler.

