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Weekly Letter - 26 March 2023

John 11.1-45

'Come out of the tomb you have made for yourself'

I think you would agree (hope so!!), that you live in a universe that is full of dramatic events. But what is an even greater drama is the inner drama that goes on inside each person. For we all know that the "person-I-am" is not the person "I-ought-to-be". For many people, and perhaps also true for you, this struggle of surrendering "the-person-I-am", and be open to the person, "I-ought-to-be" is real.

For we know in our consciences, in our inner life, the God of abundant life is saying "Come out of your tomb, and see what life can be like for you".

The One who entered the human condition, showed you how to live and that to live as one ought to be is not a vain hope.

In other words, everyday 'The One who was tortured and triumphed over the torturer' calls us to leave behind the burial chamber we have created for ourselves, and leave the darkness, the falseness and trivialities of our lives, and meet him out in the light. There he will unwrap what binds us up, and so open our eyes to the fullness of an abundant life.

You may have read Plato's story called, 'The Cave'. In this narrative everybody is chained up in a cave, and only see and experience shadows. They believe these shadows are the real deal. One of the prisoners in this cave – a world full of shadows, greyness and death, somehow breaks loose from his chains, leaves the cave, and walks out in the light, and experiences the source of light and life, the Sun. To his credit he returns to the cave, and says to all those still chained up, "leave this false world of dull shadows and come and enjoy the true light". The chained people think he is mad and decide to eradicate him. (For a better interpretation of Plato's cave, do google it!!).

Jesus says come out in to the light, for my grace is sufficient. What have you got to lose – some grey flat dull shadows!

Stephen

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom, will be led by Miss Sue Raad
Bible Readings : Ezekiel 37.1-14: Romans 8.6-11: John 11.1-45

Cycle of Prayer in the Swansea Region – we will pray for Uniting Church, Sketty.

Church Meeting – Tuesday, 28th March – 7 pm in Christ Well

Lights in the world

All powerful God,
we are troubled and at times frightened by the terrible news of events in our world.
It is as if journalists, sifting through massive amounts of information,
strain out everything about you, Lord, and show nothing of what you are accomplishing on earth.

Whenever your world is feeling like a scary place, help us to turn to You
and be encouraged in Your presence. As the world appears to grow increasingly dark, remind us
that You are the light of the world.

Help us to ponder Your awesome glory and power, to find courage through remembering who
You are, and to delight in Your unfailing love. May we rejoice that we are on an adventurous
journey with You, in which our ultimate destination is heaven.

May we not waste energy worrying about things over which we have no control.
Instead, may we focus our energies on doing what we can to brighten the place where you have put us.
May we use our time, talents and resources to push back the darkness and shine
Your light wherever we are.

In the precious name of Jesus, the light of the world.

Elizabeth Knox (URC Prayer Handbook 2023)

