



JESUS helped his disciples understand who he was by giving them pictures they could relate to. Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring the 'I AM' statements of Jesus in our video talks.

One of my favourite films is *Castaway*, starring Tom Hanks. His character, Chuck Nolan is on a FedEx flight that crashes somewhere in the Pacific. After waking up on a desert island, Chuck discovers that he's the only survivor. As time goes on and days turn into weeks and then months, the pain of his isolation becomes almost unbearable, and so, in a desperate attempt to fill the void, Chuck takes a volleyball washed up in the plane wreckage and personifies it, giving it the name Wilson, after the ball's manufacturer. The film then continues with Chuck developing a real bond with Wilson, at times pouring out his emotions, venting his anger, or sharing a joke, all with a volleyball!

In the "Our Daily Bread" reading on Thursday, we were reminded that as human beings we were created for community. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon describes how vulnerable we are when we're alone: "It's better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls, the other helps. But if there's no one to help, tough!" Solomon goes on, "By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, *The Message*).

The local church is given to us for community, but church isn't just about keeping each other company or chatting over a coffee after the service; it's about so much more. It's about building one another up, encouraging one another. As it says in Hebrews 10:24-25a, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." As John Wesley once said, "Christianity is a social faith. To turn it into a solitary affair is to kill it."

In this period of forced separation, do we miss meeting together? Do we long for the day when we will be reunited again? I'm reminded of Christians in some persecuted countries where meeting together is illegal. And yet the desire of these Christians to meet with their brothers and sisters is so strong they're prepared to risk imprisonment to do so.

I pray this season of "pruning" (listen to Sunday's online service) will give us a greater desire for "meeting together," and all the vital reasons for doing so.

God bless.

Peter

Our Sunday Service:

Please join us (online!) for our Sunday Service. Go to Exwick Community Church's Youtube Channel, and find the Service for today. We'll gather at 11 am to 'share' as a family together. You can then sing along to the songs on the video, words below!

ONLINE RESOURCE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qib6dmIBv1A>

This is a link to a Spring Harvest video encouraging us to make prayer squares of fabric. The idea is for as many people as possible to sew a square of fabric with messages of hope and prayers. When all this is over these can be sown together to make a quilt or banner to show our solidarity and faith. It doesn't matter how elaborate or simple your square is. It could be just a square cut from a piece of old clothing that perhaps you loved but has sadly worn out. The squares will all work together to make something beautiful that will (I hope) please and glorify our God.



I am excited about this and hope to get on with mine asap. It would be great if others could do the same. Wouldn't it be good if we could make them into a banner for church's reopening ceremony?

Michele

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Good morning all.

Yesterday I spent much of the day in contemplation, what is happening to our lives, we're stuck at home, nowhere to go, no places to see (come on, John, pull yourself together).

I started to imagine Heaven, an eternity with Jesus. Revelation 4 v 8 talks of the Angels constantly saying 'Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come.'

In our lives of hustle and bustle, there seemed so little time to really get to know Jesus in a deeper way. However this virus started and for whatever reason, God has used it to get our attention.

We will spend eternity giving thanks to a God who is worthy to receive glory and honour. Don't waste this opportunity to spend quality time with Jesus today. As the old song says:

And he walks with me and he talks with me
And he tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known.

God bless you as you walk with Jesus today.

John & Dorcas

Sunday Worship Songs

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VERSE 1: Give thanks to the Lord

Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

VERSE 2: With a mighty hand

And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Sing praise sing praise

CHORUS: Forever God is faithful

*Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever*

VERSE 3: From the rising to the setting sun

His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Chris Tomlin © 2001 sixsteps Music

VERSE 1: You're the Word of God the Father

From before the world began
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet
Has been fashioned by Your hand
All creation holds together
By the power of Your voice
Let the skies declare Your glory
Let the land and seas rejoice

CHORUS: You're the author of creation
You're the Lord of ev'ry man
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands

VERSE 2: Yet You left the gaze of angels

Came to seek and save the lost
And exchanged the joy of heaven
For the anguish of a cross
With a prayer You fed the hungry
With a word You stilled the sea
Yet how silently You suffered
That the guilty may go free

VERSE 3: With a shout You rose victorious

Wresting victory from the grave
And ascended into heaven
Leading captives in Your wake
Now You stand before the Father
Interceding for Your own
From each tribe and tongue and nation
You are leading sinners home

K Getty | S Townend, © 2002 Thankyou Music

VERSE 1: Jesus God's righteousness revealed

The Son of Man the Son of God
His kingdom comes
Jesus redemption's sacrifice
Now glorified now justified
His kingdom comes

*CHORUS: And this kingdom will know no end
And its glory shall know no bounds
For the majesty and power of this kingdom's King
has come
And this kingdom's reign and this kingdom's rule
And this kingdom's power and authority
Jesus God's righteousness revealed*

VERSE 2: Jesus the expression of God's love
The grace of God the Word of God
Revealed to us
Jesus God's holiness displayed
Now glorified now justified
His kingdom comes

Geoff Bullock © 1995 Geoff Bullock Music

No puzzle this week; instead a page to colour in. It's therapeutic for any age!

I AM THE
TRUE
VINE
AND
MY
FATHER
IS
THE
GARDENER



John 15:1

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Friday Friendship online!

Join in on Fridays at 10am for 40 minutes of chat over a cuppa (make your own!). You will need to download the Zoom app onto your smart phone/tablet or computer. Go to Google apps or direct to www.zoom.us. Enter the Meeting ID: 738 8875 6789 and Password: 8FrDCW. We hope to see you there!

When I was sitting on my couch in the lounge one morning this week eating my breakfast of toast and porridge, I got to thinking. My two dogs were either side of me, one on the sloping padded arm and the other on the seat beside me, how comforting it was. Then I thought about my pony and donkey, how they rely on me to feed and look after them with only the occasional complaint, when it has been longer than usual before their hay bags are filled. The chickens, who sit in their house waiting until they hear my footsteps approaching with their food and water, and then cluck and moan as only chickens can, that it was about time I let them out. The cats and dogs are a bit more demanding they will either sit and stare at me or give a mournful miaow as if to say, when ARE you going to feed us?

They all rely on me without question as they know I will eventually tend to their needs.

I began then to think that is how we should be with God. We need to rely on the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit and know instinctively that they will always be there to support and provide for us. Not always as and when we think they should, but with their insight into the future, always the best for us.

God bless you all, Lin W.

WELCOME to our readers from Exwick Church, St. Andrew's! We are happy that we can maintain our connections in these unusual times.

And as a reminder to everyone, if you have some thoughts you want to share in this Newsletter, a Bible verse, a prayer request (that you don't mind being shared), or even an uplifting photo, please forward it on to Sandy at thesalisburys@blueyonder.co.uk, or phone Sandy on [01392-676968](tel:01392-676968).

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving this Newsletter, please contact Sandy with their email address. If they are not online, we can arrange deliver of a paper copy.

If you need help with anything – shopping, picking up prescriptions, someone to chat with and relieve the isolation – please get in touch. **Contact: Peter Fowler – [07909 134066](tel:07909134066) or [01392 834988](tel:01392834988).**

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Hilary and Jimmy, John, Ena and Bunty, John and Jessie, Rita, Margaret C., Bill and Carol, Ann, Roger and Jonathan, Brian S., Chris and Debbie Carter as they start their 2-week quarantine back in Didcot, young families in Exwick who are struggling with this lockdown.