

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: The gathering of God's people

Psalm 122 – read it reflectively.

In Jerusalem, at the Temple (the house of the Lord), everything that God was to His people was remembered and celebrated: God had redeemed them, God had provided for them, God had gathered them. Gathering at the Temple, the tribes of Israel function as a single covenant people in close relationship. They loved the city and the Temple and all that it stood for, so they prayed for it to flourish.

The Church is God's people gathered in the name of Jesus, with the promise of His presence in our midst, and assembled around the Word of God (see Article 19 of the 39 Articles of Religion). For three months, the people of God have been unable to gather as the church. The doors of St James have been locked (as have all church buildings) because of the world-wide pandemic.

The people of God no longer look to a physical building or city, because we have become citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem – all God's people gathered around our God (Hebrews 12:22-24). That heavenly gathering to which we belong has its counterpart on earth whenever believers in Jesus gather together to do church: Church is an activity of the people of God.

Many of us are really looking forward to being able to physically gather in the coming weeks, and to resume the activity of "church": - the gathering of God's people, in His presence, assembled around His Word.

Pray that we will come joyfully;
pray that we will come safely;
pray that we will come expectantly;
pray that we will flourish as His assembled people.

Remember:

- keep praying daily
- keep reading God's Word
- keep in touch with one another, and know that I am only a phone call away:
0438 455 493.

With Christian love,

Robert