

2 August 2020

To all members of the St James Traditional Services

A Weekly Word of Encouragement: Blessed to be a blessing

Psalm 67 - Well known to many: the psalm used in the Wedding Service and at Evensong (BCP). Read it reflectively.

This psalm asks God to bless us (v. 1, 6, 7). The people of God rightly seek God's blessing in their lives: God's presence and provision – material, relational, spiritual. Pause now and reflect on your own life. Do you know how blessed you are? Ask God to make you more aware of His daily blessings. (As the old hymn says:

*“Count your blessings; name them one by one;
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.”*)

Like Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3), God has blessed us and blesses others through us. If you truly enjoy and delight in something, you want others to join in praise of it. “Praise completes the enjoyment” (C.S. Lewis). As God blesses us, we enjoy and delight in Him so much, that we want others to be blessed as we are. Indeed, we want the whole world to experience His salvation (v. 2) and to praise and worship Him (v. 3-5). We want people to experience God's salvation so they will know Him for themselves, and praise Him for Himself.

This is a “missionary” psalm: we are blessed, and reach out to invite others to share in the blessing of knowing God.

God's people claim to know, love and follow Jesus as Lord, Saviour and Friend. Do others see in us His beauty and blessing, and are they drawn to Him through the witness of our lives?

*“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”* (Numbers 6:24-26)

Prayer

Lord, You have blessed me abundantly by Your grace. Make me truly thankful and help me to live to the praise of Your glory, so that I may be a blessing to others by reflecting Your likeness to them. Amen.

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,
Rob

August - Week 1

COLLECT

Raise up your great power, Lord, and come among us to save us; that, although through our sins we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your plentiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through the sufficiency of your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

OUR PASTORS – MATT DAVIES & LUKE WOODHOUSE

Please pray for Matt at Warrawee Anglican and Luke at Bobbin Head Anglican as they work to stream separate services for their local congregations. Pray that they could be adaptable and flexible where there are technological challenges, that helpful and sustainable ways of connecting with the community would be clear, and that willing helpers would be raised up and trained to assist these endeavours. Pray for contacts that have started attending church online, that there will be ways of building relationships despite the Covid-19 restrictions, and that more and more people will trust Jesus, and confess him as Thomas did, “My Lord and my God.”

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him, and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

OUR COUNTRY

Father, we continue to pray for our nation, thanking you for the relative protection of its vast coastline and open spaces. We give you the honour for our safety, knowing that it is not something we deserve, so much as a gift from you – help us not to take it for granted. Even as numbers of Covid-19 infections fluctuate and the days are more precarious than they have been, we are aware of our comparatively stable position, and the good preparation of our health and contact-tracing systems, even in answer to our prayers. Thank you, Lord. Please continue to help those who are working to curb outbreaks, in every level of decision making and implementation.

Lord, where humans are involved, mistakes will continue to happen. Help us to learn from them rather than cover them up. As forgiven people, help us to model the immediate repentance that is the mark of a heart that trusts you truly – that loathes to grieve you and knows your mercy is constant. In Jesus' name. Amen.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The Begg family, Ruth & Des Bright, Sally Anne Deck, Joan Ford, Kath Holloman, Ursula Ibaraki, Rosemary Gordon-Smith, Dawn Hope, the Lees family, Polly Mackay, Ross Moody, Rosemary Pye, Jan Roach, Liz Rupp, Ruth Sutton, Eve Syme, Daphne Valtilla, Trish Webb, Chris Wood and Bob Young appreciate your ongoing prayers for comfort, healing & protection.

Sovereign Lord, you alone are the hope and healer of your people. You have promised us the hope of a world where there will be no more sorrow, sickness, or dying. Comfort and heal, merciful Lord, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble. By Jesus' death and resurrection, you have set your people free from both the penalty of sin and the fear of death. Give us a firm trust in your goodness, and bring us into the joy of the bodily resurrection, and the fulfilment of all your precious promises. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR HEARTS

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Col 3:1-4)