



November 15th 2020

**Greetings in the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.
In this time of uncertainty,
we declare: Jesus is Lord!**

Living in Love

Last week I shared some wisdom from John Lennox's book, "Where is God in a Coronavirus World?", about seeking to live in the light of eternity. This week I'd like to share another piece of wisdom about how to respond in the face of the pandemic – love your neighbour.

Pandemics and plagues are, of course, not new. Lennox quotes Lyman Stone, a researcher into how Christianity has responded to past epidemics:

Historians have suggested that the terrible Antonine Plague of the 2nd century, which might have killed off a quarter of the Roman Empire, led to the spread of Christianity, as Christians cared for the sick and offered a spiritual model whereby plagues were not the work of angry and capricious deities but the product of a broken Creation in revolt against a loving God.

But the more famous epidemic is the Plague of Cyprian, named for a bishop who gave a colourful account of this disease in his sermons. Probably a disease related to Ebola, the Plague of Cyprian helped set off the Crisis of the Third Century in the Roman world. But it did something else, too: it triggered the explosive growth of Christianity...Cyprian's sermons told Christians not to grieve for plague victims (who live in heaven), but to redouble efforts to care for the living. His fellow bishop Dionysius described how Christians, "Heedless of danger...took charge of the sick, attending to their every need."

Loving our neighbour in the face of lockdown restrictions doesn't feel like the easiest thing to do, and at times many of us may have felt frustrated that we've been unable to do more. But we're called to do what we can, whether that's making a phone call to someone who may be lonely, helping a neighbour with shopping, or simply praying! We will also have opportunity to reach out through Christmas Lunch on Jesus, both through donating money to support the many families and individuals in need this Christmas, or helping with socially-distanced delivery of Christmas cards and vouchers on 12th and 13th December (see page 3 for more details).

Despite the challenges we face, let us not cease to love our neighbours and reflect God's generosity in these difficult times.

With my prayers and love,

Anita

For One Who Is Exhausted, a Blessing

When the rhythm of the heart becomes hectic,
Time takes on the strain until it breaks;
Then all the unattended stress falls in
On the mind like an endless, increasing weight.

The light in the mind becomes dim.
Things you could take in your stride before
Now become laborsome events of will.

Weariness invades your spirit.
Gravity begins falling inside you,
Dragging down every bone.

The tide you never valued has gone out.
And you are marooned on unsure ground.
Something within you has closed down;
And you cannot push yourself back to life.

You have been forced to enter empty time.
The desire that drove you has relinquished.
There is nothing else to do now but rest
And patiently learn to receive the self
You have forsaken in the race of days.

At first your thinking will darken
And sadness take over like listless weather.
The flow of unwept tears will frighten you.

You have travelled too fast over false ground;
Now your soul has come to take you back.

Take refuge in your senses, open up
To all the small miracles you rushed through.

Become inclined to watch the way of rain
When it falls slow and free.

Imitate the habit of twilight,
Taking time to open the well of color
That fostered the brightness of day.

Draw alongside the silence of stone
Until its calmness can claim you.
Be excessively gentle with yourself.

Stay clear of those vexed in spirit.
Learn to linger around someone of ease
Who feels they have all the time in the world.

Gradually, you will return to yourself,
Having learned a new respect for your heart
And the joy that dwells far within slow time.

From "Benedictus: A Book of Blessings" by the Christian poet John O'Donohue

A Lockdown Month of Prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite us to pray at 6pm each evening this week:

Loving God, at this time of crisis when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world. Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength, our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Lunch on Jesus 2020, Derby and Calcutta

Please consider sponsoring a Christmas meal for a family in Calcutta and Derby for £30 or give whatever you can afford. You can make cheques payable to St Peter's Derby (please write 'Christmas Lunch on Jesus' on the back) and send to: Christmas Lunch on Jesus, c/o St Peter's In the City, St Peter's Street, Derby, DE1 1SN or visit: www.stpetersderby.org.uk to donate online.

We need help to hand deliver the cards around Derby over the weekend of 12 and 13 December. Cards will be need to be collected on Sat 12 December between 9am and 12noon from St Peters in the City Church. Please do let us know if you would like to volunteer by emailing: clojproject@gmail.com

Prayer ...

In this very testing time for us all, do not hesitate to ask for prayer for any concern you have. We all face difficulties and challenges, but prayer makes a difference. In an emergency, call Bren (07967 183601), and she will ask those on the prayer chain to pray for you.

Sunday Worship

During this period of lockdown we are unable to hold services in church, so the 10.15 Communion Service is cancelled until further notice. We continue to meet virtually over zoom at 11am – please join us! Access details are below:

On a Computer, Laptop, Smart Phone or Tablet:

The easiest way is to click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/450891605?pwd=czNCTTJuaUJpQ3VlOVlnUm1zS0tKQT09>

Alternatively:

1. Open Zoom and select 'Join' or 'Join a Meeting'
2. Enter the Meeting ID: **450 891 605**
3. Select 'Join'
4. When prompted for the Meeting Password, enter **73837**
5. Select 'Continue' or 'Join Meeting' and you will be connected

By Phone – these are the numbers you must now use:

1. Pick any one of the numbers below (doesn't matter which), if one doesn't work, pick another: 0203 481 5240 ; 0131 460 1196 ; 0203 051 2874 ; 0203 481 5237
2. Dial the number and when prompted for the Meeting ID press: **450 891 605#**
3. You will then be prompted for a Participant ID, just press **#**
4. Finally, you will be prompted for the Meeting Password, press: **73837#**
5. You will be connected and able to hear everything that is happening

If you have any problems with accessing the service on Sunday, please call Anita.

Space to take notes from today's readings, prayers and sermon.

St. Peter's in the City Staff:

Acting Vicar/Associate Priest: Revd. Anita Matthews

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Building Manager: Melvyn Wood

Kitchen Supervisor: Gillian Wood

Church Wardens: Tim Benson, Sung-Hee Lee

We are a community of faith, hope and love in the heart of the city

Follow us on Twitter: @stpetersderby

www.stpetersderby.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Link: Revd. Anita Matthews

IN THE WEEK

**The church office is closed until further notice,
but telephone calls to the Office on 01332 360790 and
emails to office@stpetersderby.org.uk will be monitored**