



“The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes. He is close to those who trust in him.”

Nahum 1:7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Friday 27 March 2020

Well, we're underway in our efforts to come to grips with this! If you've read the book of Revelation, written for hard times, sooner or later you'll have come across that phrase, 'patient endurance'. It's just what we need now as we lean on each other and depend upon the Lord!

I really do think that although we face a degree of fear and anxiety, this can be a magnificent opportunity for our faith in the Lord to be refined and grow. Do make use of the quieter moments such a routine as this gives most of us to reflect more upon our personal (as opposed to corporate) relationship with the Lord. Make it a time to renew your personal prayer life; your own Bible reading and reflection.



Isaiah 30:15 reads, "For the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said: "By repentance and rest you would be saved; your strength would lie in quiet confidence— but you were not willing." So often we dash from one thing to the next only with regard for the future and not the present. Always looking to what might be, rather than what is now. It was Martin Luther who, from the milieu of the Great Reformation, said, "There are two days in my calendar: This day and that Day." Let's use 'this day', with all its lack of distraction, for all it's worth to shape us and secure us in Christ our Rock and our Redeemer!

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with every good thing to do His will. And may He accomplish in us what is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.... (Hebrews 21:19-20)

By now I hope you are aware of the following means of support we are making available as a church:

1. The Parish Office phone (01752 260317) & email (office@emmanuelplymouth.co.uk).
 - a. **PLEASE phone or email in if you are in need of anything!** It doesn't have to be a critical emergency. We have groups of church people wanting to be there for you to:
 - i. Pick up a prescription...
 - ii. Do some shopping and leave it at your door...
 - iii. Talk to you on the phone if you have something you can't sort out or if you just want to chat with a friend!
 - iv. Or whatever.....!
2. Our Facebook page, [Emmanuel with St. Paul](#), where you will find:
 - a. **At 9.00am every day** a live time of Bible reading, fellowship and prayer.
 - i. It's available afterwards as a recording through the rest of the day
 - ii. It's also copied to our website (www.emmanuelplymouth.co.uk) after it ends.
 - b. **At 10.30am on a Sunday**, a slightly longer time of prayer, praise, Scripture and informal communion. Followed by the release of a youngster's puppet message.

- c. Other information and exhortation to help us trust our Lord and Saviour and know each other's fellowship during these tough times.
 - d. Plus announcements and messages.
3. Our Website, (www.emmanuelplymouth.co.uk) for longer term information + recordings of the 9.00am 7-days-a-week Bible-Prayer time and 10.30 Sunday prayers.
 4. The '**Suggestions for Prayers**' prayer book either emailed, posted or delivered to you. If you've not got on, email me or phone on karldesk@blueyonder.co.uk or 01752248601.
 5. Also, could I urge you...
 - a. ...if you have given up on Facebook or never used it, to download the App on your phone or join online by searching for *Facebook*. You can then go to the [Emmanuel with St. Paul's, page](#) and enjoy the 9.00am prayers, information and 10.30 Sunday service.
 - b. ...if the church doesn't know your email yet, to email in to Jeannette at office@emmanuelplymouth.co.uk to make it known. It means we can be instantly in contact and not have to post things to you.
 6. In the near future
 - a.we also hope to utilise Zoom (free for those taking part), which is a simple conference programme. It allows up to 100 of us to be on screen visually and audibly for each other at any one time!
 - i. It's already in use for the early-bird, Zoom Friday prayer meeting at 8.00am. Becky Bale becky@balefamily43.plus.com will put you in touch if you'd like to 'attend'. You can say nothing or join in very easily if you wish!
 - ii. We're aiming to get home groups, other prayer groups and possibly the Sunday 10.30 gathering to use it. All you need to do is click an email we'll send to you if you want to join in. More detail to follow
 - b. A *YouTube* channel is also on its way!
 - c. And give you details of Easter Celebrations in Bulletin 3 next week
 7. You might also like to look up
 - a. www.thebibleproject.com - to pick up a wealth of brilliant, accessible and entertaining teaching on Bible reading and understanding.
 - b. www.wearemakingdisciples.com – to continue your Lent Course learning though the free material and videos they offer

In His grip and grace,

Rev Karl

and the considerable number of people working so we can all be there for each other!

Stay in touch



Emmanuel Church, Plymouth
In partnership with St Paul's, Efford
emmanuelplymouth.co.uk




Emmanuel with St Pauls




tony.williams@emmanuelplymouth.co.uk

 0330 113 9088

karl.freeman@emmanuelplymouth.co.uk

 0792 117 3165

office@emmanuelplymouth.co.uk

 **01752 260317**

