

## **The things that bring life.**

### **Opening**

In the name of our God

The merciful, the loving, the liberator

Thank you for allowing me to join you wherever you are

Today, we are looking at a part of a warm heartfelt letter that Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica.

You see the church was doing well, but the folk were getting tired and weary of a situation they had no control over. Paul knew that they were a church of strong faith and he wanted to build on that, he wanted to enliven them and encourage them to continue to build each other up even as they were growing more and more weary.

Let us come into this time bringing all of who we are and all of who we want to be ... knowing that we all long for the things that bring life

### **Gathering**

What are the tools we use  
to build each other up?

What can we use in our own way  
with the skill we need to help each other along?

How do we build each other up?

Do we use our faith

Do we use our care

Do we use our hands

Our heads our hearts?

What can we use in our own way  
with the skill we need to help each other along?

What are the things we dare to claim  
to help us stand amidst difficulties?

In a world that's constantly changing  
we see the example of one  
who has lifted us through the mist of ages  
with a Love and Grace that continually builds us up.  
One who used the tools of justice, peace, relationship  
and yes  
faith  
and care  
and hands  
and head and heart.

The very things we can use  
with our own skill, in our own way, to help each other along.

### **Approaching God in Prayer**

Loving God

May we be held in faith and care  
And recognise that these are but parts  
Of the many gifts we can use  
To encourage, to enliven, to build each other up  
And bring us to renewed life.  
ready to face a new day, a new week, and new challenges.

May we remember that we are Your children of the day, so that we remain  
fully awake and aware.

From generation to generation, you call us from chaos to life,  
Even as we confine ourselves with the trappings of this world,  
You move us to the things that bring life even in the face of death.

May we know your love and hope as it fills every aspect of our lives even  
the times of sorrow and trouble  
and give us the strength to carry-on  
even in the sight of those who would try to pull us down.

Forgive us for the times when we have turned our backs on you

In your forgiveness and Grace  
Fill us with renewed vigour and life giving enthusiasm.  
Help us to encourage one another and live as true children of a loving God.  
Amen

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Hymn 543 :**

**Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us - tune : Mannheim**

### **Introduction**

"You are all children of the light and children of the day." Paul tells his sisters and brothers of the church at Thessalonica "So then" he goes on ... "be awake and be sober". You see many at the church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime, so for them it was a time of advent, Jesus could return at any moment.

We are just about on the verge of the advent season, when we watch and wait for Christmas. But this was different, they were watching for the second coming of Christ, as we should be too.

However, there was a problem, because, many of the believers in Thessalonica were growing tired of waiting and some were becoming uncertain. Members were passing away and yet Jesus had not yet returned. So Paul wrote an encouraging and reassuring letter to what was a thriving and missional church. He told them to be awake because Christ will come "like a thief in the night" and he encouraged them further when he told them in the letter, that of course as a church they will be prepared, because they already know all of what he is saying.

How do they already know it? because they live in the light, they live in the faith and life of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He told them to continue therefore exactly what they are accustomed to doing, encouraging one another and building each other up. Doing the things that bring life.

### **Scripture Reading : 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

#### **Address : The things that bring life**

#### **A new hymn**

During one of our group zoom after church sessions we were talking about the things we are doing that help bring us life and thinking of these difficult times, we looked at the verse, "how shall we sing a new song" and we set the church a number of challenges one was to write a new song to reflect our Christian challenges for today.

Heather Dibbs has written a new song and we sing it today to a familiar tune.

#### **Hymn : Troubled Times - 2020**

Heather Dibbs

Music: Beauty for Brokenness.....

God, we cry out to you - in our despair,  
Our Nations are, suf-fering - hear now our prayer -  
Comfort the dy-ing, alone in their need -

for ill folk, and lonely ones, we now intercede-

**“My People, I hear - Come now, draw near,  
Place all your cares upon Me,  
I’ll give you My Peace, which never will cease,  
Just Trust in me, and from fear.... you’ll be free”**

God, we cry out to you - for those full of care,  
The hungry and, jo-bless, great burdens to bear,  
Problems with Mental Health; treatment still due,  
those, waiting, for their tests, caught, in the queue-

**“My People I hear - I say - Do not Fear,  
I am your God - don’t dismay,  
I’ll make you strong, the wh-ole day long,  
I’ll hold you close, with my hand... all the way.”**

God we cry out to you - for Family and Friend,  
those needing, to stay home - on others’ depend,  
victims of vio-lence, unable to hide,  
For fears, for the fu..ture, with no-one to guide

**“My people, I hear - to Me you are dear,  
In me, you’ll find refuge and strength,  
I’ll give you re-lief, and through your belief,  
you will find courage today... and at length.”**

**“My People, I cry for you - I died for you all,  
Not-one is exclu..ded, who answers My call,  
Come to Me, with your need, and you will be blest,  
Be-lieve, and I will give....eter..nal rest.**

**Come to Me now - do not.. delay,  
give Me your heart and your soul,  
I’ll lighten your load, lead you, on life’s road,  
My Holy Spirit will ma...ke you whole.”**

Used with permission

### **Prayers of intercession**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

SWHG Service for 15th November 2020

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

In these times and this season,  
May we find within us the things we need  
To encourage and share with the people around us  
May we stand firm for the things that bring life  
For truth, justice, equity and peace.

We pray for the things that bring life  
to those who are struggling to cope physically and mentally  
For those struggling with illness and sorrow  
For those with difficulties in the home  
and in their neighbourhoods  
May we stand firm for the things that bring life  
For truth, justice, equity and peace.

We pray for those struggling to feed themselves and their families  
Those who find it difficult to cope with continued restrictions  
May we stand firm and use our Gods given tools  
To bring life, to stand for truth, justice, equity and peace for all people.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.  
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.  
Amen

**Hymn 523 :**

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, - tune : Sing hosanna**

give me joy in my heart, I pray;  
give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
keep me praising till the break of day.

*Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!*  
*Sing hosanna to the King of kings!*  
*Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!*

*Sing hosanna to the King!*

Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving ...

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving ...

Traditional

### **Blessing**

Let us go with Jesus, the light who guides us on our way.

May our hope be that the Sun of Justice will rise one morning on all humankind.

May the God of Peace, our constant companion,  
lead us along paths of solidarity and hope,  
and give us the joy of being united in God's love.  
Amen.

### **Hymn 21 : Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

praise God, all creatures here below,  
praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken