

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 19th July; Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Children of God

I'm hugely grateful to Eileen Wetherell for suggesting at the beginning of "lockdown" that we try to pray at the time when we would be together in Christ Church. Each Sunday Jill and I have lit a candle at 10 am and held a time of worship. We've remembered all of you with whom we'd have normally been worshipping (not forgetting those on Wednesdays as well!) and we use some of the Sunday readings, the "Thought for the Week", share in prayers, and often one of the super poems Liz Coe has found. We find a hymn or other music from a CD or online. It has become a special time for us, and we have really benefited from the thoughtful pieces many of you have contributed over the weeks.

And so often we have noticed in one of the bible readings a real and specific reference which can be applied to these extraordinary days we are experiencing. This week it's the New Testament reading Romans 8.12-25. Look it up and read the whole passage for yourselves. Paul might almost have been writing it for us all in 2020.



"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us"he writes.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

I guess that all of us have gone through at least some days of depression and a feeling of hopelessness in these last weeks – when the Pandemic seems unending and life somewhat pointless. Will it ever be over? Of course there is no easy answer to that question – we shall have to live with the effects of Covid19 for many years to come, and until medical science finds an answer in the form of vaccine or cure, it will remain a dark shadow over the world – indeed It really is a case of *"the whole creation groaning in labour pains until now"*.

Yet that isn't all. Paul speaks of taking the longer view – of having hope. We are God's children, he says, and he continues to care for us, as any good parent does when their child is in crisis. However bad things may get – even if the whole world is in a real mess – living by God's Spirit puts a whole different perspective on life. We can call God "Abba" - Father – and ultimately he is there for us and will always be.

It's a wonderful concept – but it isn't always easy to grasp. We live in a world where we demand proof for everything – and where we expect easy and rapid answers. Yet Paul is saying that the things we can't see are those things which are really worthwhile.

*"Hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."*



Faith demands of us that we place our trust in those things we can't have proof or be sure of. There will be better days ahead – the signs are there in the gradual lifting of restrictions despite the continuing dangers that lie ahead. *"For in hope were we saved."*

So keep hoping - as children of God - and keep up those prayers for each other!

Ian Coomber