

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 21st June; Second Sunday after Trinity

Looking round for inspiration about what to share with you this week, several things come to mind. First Saturday 20th is the Summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and the start of Summer. We went into lockdown in late Winter/early Spring and now three months later we're hopefully on the way out. It will have been a different experience for each one of us.

For myself, it's not been too bad. I'm fortunate in many respects: living with my husband, daughter and grandchildren; we've all been well; relatively secure financially; we

have a comfortable house; and a garden. So I haven't been alone, I've spent a lot of time with the children; I've zoomed into conversations with friends; I've spent time getting the garden into a better shape than ever before; I've done more cooking than usual, making bread with my granddaughter a few times; and yesterday golden syrup cookies turned out so well that I may be bringing them in on the first Sunday instead of my usual flapjack. I've missed coming into church and am looking forward to it being open for private prayer, hopefully soon. I've missed my gym classes – and as a result am quite a bit larger than before. I've missed going to the cinema. All in all though, I've enjoyed being at home.

And now it seems as though we're re-entering the normal world. Though we'll still be living with the grandchildren, by next Autumn they should be back at school and nursery, they'll be out with their friends, doing the usual things, and won't be so interested in their old Grandma. Gradually the normal world will resume – all so busy and such a rush – I've got used to a quieter way of life. And there is so much to worry about - the economy; many parts of our cultural life which seem under threat of imminent collapse; people losing jobs and income; and, for some of us at least, fears about Brexit. And of course, the threat of disease. Though our doctors and scientists seem to understand more and more about Covid-19, and we heard this week of a treatment that improves the outlook for victims, it is also clear that there remains much that is unknown, resulting in uncertainty as to how best to proceed. I am afraid of a second wave of infection, especially after summer as the weather gets colder.



I found another source of inspiration in the psalm this Sunday.

Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.
In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.
There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

Psalm 86:1-10

Ruth Pickering