

Morning Prayer and Thought for the Day 23rd April 2020

StF No 137 : New every morning

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFfxhcrZktA&list=RDIFfxhcrZktA&start_radio=1

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see;
some softening gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on every cross and care.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask:
room to deny ourselves; a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Only, O Lord, in your dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

PRAYER

Thank you Lord for bringing us to a new day, and help us to see your direction and guidance, even in the dark times, as in this covid-19 pandemic.

We praise You for your presence and love expressed to us in Jesus your Son and our Saviour.

Our hope is in you, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, who sends the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

LORDS PRAYER – (StF - Modern Version)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY : Waiting For God

After planting seeds in the greenhouse recently I remember looking to see, several times that day if they had germinated! Was this over-optimism, anxiety or impatience - whatever! I needed to patiently wait for the germination process to take place. I remember my mother saying, ' watch kettle never boils'. A frequent saying in my childhood days! So, I watered the seeds regularly, as prescribed, and now several weeks later they are ready to prick out and plant up. One of the benefits, in our current Covid-19 total-lock-down situation is that the garden is as tidy as it has been for years, so early in the season!

How are you waiting in this difficult time?

When sad news and negative reporting come at us from all angles, it is a natural reaction to feel anxious and afraid - but how should we as Christians respond?

For me, at times like this, I look for God's promises in His Word and try to focus on what he is saying to us.

Psalm 130 for example contains just eight verses, with words such as forgiveness, hope and unfailing love to remind us how much God loves us, - loves you.

Verse 5 reads, ⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. (NIVUK)

The Lord spoke powerfully to me through the word **wait** in that verse.

Waiting is something we generally find difficult to do.

As I pursued this thought I found the following text helpful and comforting:-

Isaiah 40:31, Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary. (NASB)

The prophet Isaiah gave us this powerful promise.

It is a continual challenge to wait patiently on the Lord, The Lord will reward us for waiting upon him. We can remain calm when it appears that nothing is happening.

As we learn to respond to life in new ways, the winds of adversity will lift us up, like wind beneath the wings of an eagle, instead of knocking us down. As we develop a patient faith in God we will be able to wait on him to complete his work in our lives. We will be continually renewed through the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps the extra time given to us, because of the lockdown, is a further opportunity to spend more time in God's company through meditating, waiting, on His Word.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reads, ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (NIVUK)

We began on a note of **LOVE** - we close on a note of **TRUST** as we sing:-

StF No 481 : The Lord's my shepherd ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0>

1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

(Descant)

I will trust, I will trust in You.

I will trust, I will trust in You.

Endless mercy follows me,

Goodness will lead me home.

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.
Refrain

3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.
Refrain

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CLOSING PRAYER

Holy God,

Help us to understand and receive Your unfailing love, there for us each new morning .

Thank You that You forgive us as we confess our sins.

Give to us the aid of the Holy Spirit in our walk with You.

We place our day into Your hands, our time and our talents, so that we may serve You and join in with what You are doing.

Be with us in our prayers as we hold up to You our family, friends and neighbours and the myriad needs of this country, its leaders and across the world. Send Your encouragement, comfort, peace and healing.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.