

# Rosemary Presbyterian Church

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland - NIC 104448

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29<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Dear Friends,

As lockdown eases I hope that you are keeping well. Observing social distancing principles, we are told, will be so important in limiting what seems to be an inevitable second wave of the virus. Stay safe!

The Great Light can be seen on the Titanic Walkway, which joins the Titanic Slipway to HMS Caroline. This light had been situated on the Copeland Islands, guiding ships into Belfast Lough from 1928 until 2014. The Lighthouse was then modernised with solar power.

On the Great Light Website it tells us 'the Great Light weighs 10 tonnes and is 7 metres high' and it 'produced one of the strongest lighthouse beams ever to shine - a truly great light'.

Psalm 27 speaks about the Lord being our Light. It is a Psalm of two moods; confident trust and anxious fear. In our lives we constantly hold these two moods in tension.

We see his confident trust in verse one;

***'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?'***

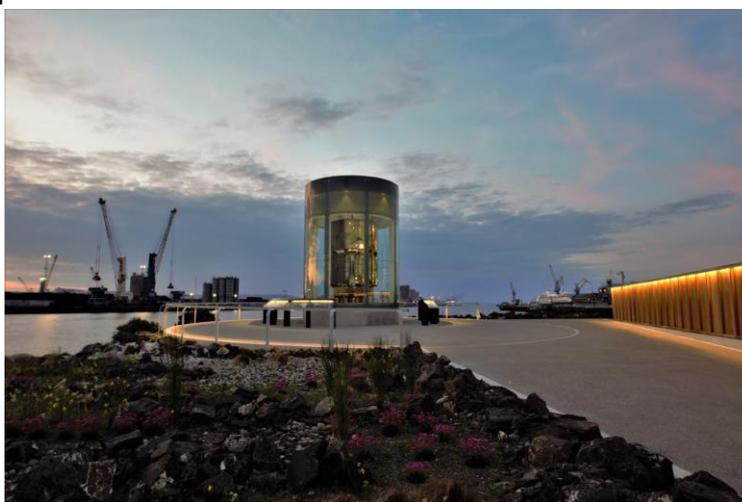
He speaks of the Lord as his Light in the darkness, His Salvation or deliverer from his foes, and the stronghold of his life. There is no reason for him to be frightened of anything. He is aware of and believes in the God who keeps his life together and this is why he longs for the presence of the Lord.

***'One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to enquire in his temple' (Psalm 27:4)***

The house of the Lord represents the presence of God and the writer's deep desire is to experience this presence. The writer wants to get to God's house to meditate on God and remind himself of how beautiful He is and speak to him. His desire is for God and the communication he has with Him. He wants to be with God, this is where he receives His confident trust. The closer we are to God the more confident our faith and the more content we are. Our circumstances may not be as we would like them but we know that God is in control and that our acceptance is in His love for us, through faith in Jesus Christ. He is the strong hold of our lives, our light and our salvation and therefore there is nothing to fear!

The writer of this Psalm also indicates his anxiety and his fears. His concerns come out as he speaks to God. He is praying, pleading with God for acceptance, wanting to be heard, seeking guidance and longing for protection from the God he believes in.

***Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek." Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in. Teach me your way, O Lord and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. (Psalm 27:7-10)***



It is important for us to know that we can talk to God about our experiences as the writer of the Psalm does. When an anxious fear comes on us we can talk to God openly and honestly about it. This Psalm helps us realise that we are not alone, nor the first to have such thoughts. God is just wanting His people to open up to Him and through this to help us mature and draw closer to Him in our faith.

The writer concludes the Psalm by telling us where his strength will come from for the days ahead. His confidence is not about the afterlife but about life here and now. He is not going to despair, he is going to wait for God, his confidence is in Him. He is confident he will see the goodness of God in his life

***I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!***

In these difficult days I want to leave this thought with you. We look to the goodness of God as we wait for Him to do His work in our lives. May God continue to enable you to live with a confident trust which helps you to deal with those anxious fears as they arise in your life.

*Philip McCrea*

As you will be aware the Northern Ireland Executive has said that churches are able to open, for services, from the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020. This opening can only take place when a number of requirements are met. The Kirk Session met on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June and agreed that we would **resume church services on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. The decisions taken about what will happen as we return to church are included, in this mailing, in a letter from our Clerk of Session, Trevor Long. Please read through these carefully in order that we can make our services as safe as they can be for all who wish to attend.

*Philip McCrea*



#### **A message from the Treasurer**

Many thanks to the numerous members of the Congregation for making contributions to Rosemary Presbyterian Church during this period of lockdown. This is very much appreciated and enables us to meet our financial obligations as they become due for payment. I would encourage you all to contribute and would suggest these are made on a month by month basis until our normal weekly service resumes. This can be done by post or on line banking.

For FWO and / or other funds of the church - by cheque payable to Rosemary Presbyterian Church and posted to me at 18 Farm Lodge Road, Greenisland, Carrickfergus, BT38 8XH.

For FWO only - by on line bank transfer to 95.01.21 account name Rosemary Presbyterian Church and account number 61034898. As a reference quote your surname + FWO number. For example EAKIN No 123. This will assist greatly in identifying the donor for gift aid purposes.

*Roy Eakin*