

Rosemary Presbyterian Church

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland - NIC 104448

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Dear Friends,

I hope that you are well and receiving help and encouragement from family, friends and people in Rosemary. Ministry is still taking place in our church and is evidenced in practical kindness being exercised by several people to support others. Work is also being done on the social media platforms to provide much needed spiritual encouragement. Elders and others are keeping in touch through phone calls. While we are not able to meet in church at this time, we are still able to continue building stronger relationships, which will benefit us when we return to meeting together in our church building.

I have been challenged by the words in Lamentations 3:21-26;

'But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

'The Lord is my portion," says my soul, therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.'



It is thought that Jeremiah wrote Lamentations lamenting the fall of Jerusalem in 586BC. This tragic event caused him to write five poems mourning this terrible loss. He was seeking to encourage people to hope in God at this dreadful situation. He is pointing a faithless people to a faithful God.

He lets us know his thoughts about what has happened; 'My soul is bereft of peace', 'I've forgotten what happiness is' and he points out that his endurance has failed along with his hope in God. Remembering how difficult it has been he gets very down and loses hope. Life's circumstances have the potential to make us feel this way and it is extremely hard to know how to reverse this downward spiral.

Jeremiah restores his hope by calling his thoughts about God into his mind. Despite what he is experiencing now, he affirms that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never end. Just like the sunrise, they are new every morning, whether we are aware of them or not! Jeremiah marvels at the faithfulness of God to an unfaithful people. He is brought back to the point where he acknowledges that the Lord is all he has and that any hope he has is found only in God. Jeremiah comes to the point where he will wait quietly before the Lord who will not run away from him. He knows God is good to those who wait and hope in Him.

This period of lockdown is a tremendous opportunity to call to our minds, thoughts about who God is and how He acts towards us. God is not far away; His love is constant and unfailing. His compassion reaches out to us every morning we wake up and His mercy does not stop during the day, it never ends. Therefore we, despite our unfaithfulness, depend on our faithful God. He brings deliverance and salvation through Jesus Christ. As we wait on God during this crisis, we know that God is good to those who seek Him and wait quietly for His salvation.

Be encouraged my friends, and truly take the opportunity to wait on God and He will lead us through this crisis and ultimately to be with Him forever. He is our hope!

May you know the blessing of our God as we continue to pray for and support each other.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS.

I regret to inform you of the death of Mr. James Spratt (41 Mountcoole Park) on 23rd April 2020. We extend our sympathy to Jim's wife Jean, daughter Elizabeth, son Andrew and the wider family and assure them of our prayers at this difficult time.

We have been trying to keep in touch with everyone in Rosemary Presbyterian Church, by letter, email, phone and Facebook and Church website. Included in this letter is our Church Prayer Diary for May, prepared by Brenda Nicholl. Our fear is that anyone would be missed in our communications. If you know of anyone who has not been contacted please let me or any of the elders know in order that we can remedy this. Many thanks

Philip McCrea