

**Rebuilding Hope and Confidence -
Moving forward in Confidence**

Welcome and Opening Prayer

July is often a time when the subject of transition is spoken of amongst our schools, colleges and universities. However, this year, July 2021 we are all experiencing something of transition, which is new to all, due to events happening nationally and across the world. Transition can be a time of excitement, of fear, or of a full range of mixed emotions. But is also a time where we move forward either by putting the past behind, or by giving thanks for all that has gone before. And this month we reflect on this moving forward in confidence, faith and hope.

Isaiah 58: verse 11 says - The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.

We need to remember, as people of faith, that whatever the reasons for moving forward God is very much part of our journey. God is there to guide us, to offer strength and to comfort us in times of need.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to - Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Sometimes we feel God moving us on, other times we maybe waiting for God, but in fact God is waiting for us. As we worship let us trust our lives to God, and allow this period of transition to

be one that is forward looking in confidence knowing that God is with us. Let us be filled with God's spirit with an opportunity to deepen our faith. And let it be filled with Hope – both ours and God's.

We pray - God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Hymn: In Christ alone my hope is found

sung by St Martin's Voices

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!

My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974)
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Bible Reading: Psalm 33: 20-22 (NIV)

We wait in hope for the LORD;
 he is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice,
 for we trust in his holy name.
May your unfailing love be with us, LORD,
 even as we put our hope in you.

Reflection *by Roy Lessin*

God is bigger than time,
dates, and appointments.
He wants you to move
through this day with a quiet heart,
an inward assurance that
He is in control, a peaceful certainty
that your life is in His hands,
a deep trust in His plan and purposes,
and a thankful disposition,
toward all that He allows.

He wants you to put your faith in Him,
not in a timetable.
He wants you to wait on Him
and wait for Him.
In His perfect way He will put everything
together, see to every detail...
arrange every circumstance...
and order every step to bring
to pass what He has for you.

Song: Our confidence is in the Lord

Our confidence is in the Lord
The source of our salvation
Rest is found in Him alone
The Author of creation

We will not fear the evil day
Because we have a refuge
In every circumstance we say
Our hope is built on Jesus

He is our fortress
We will never be shaken
He is our fortress
We will never be shaken
We will put our trust in God
We will put our trust in God

Noel and Tricia Richards ©2001 Thankyou Music

Prayers

Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace
to calm our troubled sea;
Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith;
Ever-present God, who fills us with awe
but also raises many questions without easy answers;
Open our eyes to see you in our boat—today,
Strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead,
Open our ears this hour to hear the word you speak.
This we pray, In Jesus' name. Amen

<http://rockhay.tripod.com/>

COVID prayer

When this is over, may we never again take for granted:

Friday night out,

the taste of communion,

a routine check-up, the school run each morning,

coffee with a friend,

each deep breath, life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become,

more like the people we wanted to be,

we were called to be, we hoped to be,

and may we stay that way, better for each other?

Because of the worst.

Amen

Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ

*Sung by Justin Stretch, St Laurence Church, Chorley
and used with permission*

Lord Jesus Christ

You have come to us

You are one with us,

Mary's Son.

Cleansing our souls from all their sin.

Pouring Your love and goodness in.

Jesus our love for you we sing,

Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ
Now and every day
Teach us how to pray,
Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ
We would come to you
Live our lives for you,
Son of God.
All your commands we know are true,
Your many gifts will make us new,
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lyricist and Composer: Patrick Appleford (1925-2018).
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Manchester Mothers' Union Prayer

Heavenly Father,
as we meet as members of Mothers' Union in Manchester
may we know your presence and hear your word.
Teach us how best to serve you,
seeing not just the needs of this diocese
but those of the wider world.
Help us at all times to trust in you and seek to do your will.
Fill us with your spirit, encourage us, use us and bless us,
that we may have strength to follow your way.
We pray in sure hope and the assurance of your power.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:

thanks be to God.

Blessing, honour and glory be yours,

here and everywhere,

now and for ever.

Amen.

Thank you for joining in with Thursday Prayers.

Choral music: The Church of England St Martin in the Fields

Theme music: Catherine Hilton

Readers: Kirsty Screeton, Barbara Taylor, Barbara Pye,
Christine Faulkner, Jenni Beaumont

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**Next Thursday Prayers will be on 12th August with
Mary Sumner as the theme.**