

Bethel
Baptist Church
Hawthorn



Newsletter
February 2021

Is Peace Possible in Hard Times?

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:7

Contrary to popular belief, peace is not attained by manipulating circumstances. People think that if they could just rearrange their situation – find a new job, overcome depression, stop a spouse from filing for divorce – then life would be wonderful. But that kind of self-reliance is both misleading and unbiblical. We might arrive at a temporary calm, but fixing a problem outside of the Lord's will won't provide lasting peace.

The truth is, God's peace is available no matter how painful and hopeless your situation seems. A tranquil heart comes from trusting Him. Though warning that believers would have trouble on this earth, Jesus assures us that He has overcome the world. In other words, we can have peace in the midst of our trials because the Lord walks alongside us. Our relationship with Christ provides all we need to face difficulty – including courage, wisdom, guidance, and comfort.

Jesus promised peace for those who trust in Him, and He delivers on His promises. Our part is to take one day at a time and believe that He will carry us through. Our

Father wants to see us demonstrate faith; we can depend on Him to meet our needs and bestow the divine peace that surpasses all comprehension

By Dr. Charles Stanley

We praise you, O Christ, ceaselessly searching for us when we are lost. We bless you, O Christ, constantly feeding us when we are hungry. We give thanks to you, O Christ, eternally interceding for us when we are in danger.

Ann Griffiths (1776-1805)

Virtual meetings

Bible Study and Prayer continues every Thursday evening from 7.00pm. Please e-mail if you would like to join the mailing list and receive the invitations and Bible reference.

Quotes

The peace of God is possible no matter the pressures around us. Peace has to do with our mindsets, not with outside circumstances.

Benjamin Suulola



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27



Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.

Augustine of Hippo, Confessions



In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Psalms 4:8



Choose to be at peace with yourself and you will never have any battle to lose. Find yourself every reason and season to share your peace with others!

Israelmore Ayivor

Please remember in your prayers

Those we know and love who have suffered bereavement, those who are unwell both at home and in hospital and those who are helping to care for them. We ask for special prayer for our Pastor, Andrew, at this time. Pray for those who are facing unemployment and financial uncertainty.

Jesus, may the light of your comfort, shine in their darkness.

Those who are feeling particularly fearful at the moment, those facing times of uncertainty, illness and the fear that comes from not knowing and the anxiety it brings.

Jesus, may the light of your peace, shine in their darkness.

Those whose lives are filled with the darkness of hate and resentment; those whose words and deeds are the source of much pain, sorrow and despair.

Jesus, may the light of your love, shine in their darkness.

Those in the darkness of loneliness, who spend their days in the prison of their homes; for those who with the passing years have only their memories.

Jesus, may the light of your presence, shine in their darkness.

Our church community. Give us grace to be open to the opportunities that your Spirit brings in this time of separation. Pray for creative hearts to embrace and carry forwards new ways we have found to connect with each one another.

Pray for our world leaders and for the leaders in our country that they will seek the wisdom of God as they make decisions over the coming days and months. separation. Pray for creative hearts to embrace and carry forwards new ways we have found to connect with each one another.

Jesus, Light of the World, who shines in the darkness, we pray.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Keeping in touch

We don't have a current e-mail address for everyone in these social distancing times! If you think your details may need updating, please let one of the deacons know your new details or email mail@bethelbaptisthawthorn.org

Prayer for the nation

In response to the reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from Covid 19, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite us all to set aside time to pray each day and remind us that prayer is an expression of love. They suggest the following daily themes.

Sunday

Family, friends and loved ones

We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being and their sense of hope.

We pray that even when loved ones cannot be physically together they would not feel apart.

We ask for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday

Schools and colleges, children and young people

We pray for all those involved in the shaping of young lives.

We give God thanks for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people, in education.

We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that every needful resource would be made available – that all lives can flourish even in these difficult times and that no-one would be overlooked.

Tuesday

Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

We echo God's commitment to those most at risk of this virus by praying today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated. Praying for their deliverance, protection and comfort.

We hold before God those who care for them – that they would be strengthened and encouraged in this work.

Wednesday

Business, the workplace and economic wellbeing

In this time of great challenge, we pray for the economic wellbeing of the country.

We remember before God those who face great uncertainty in their work.

We lift before God those who have lost their jobs and face an uncertain and difficult future. We pray for a renewed commitment to our common life together.

Thursday

The NHS and other key workers

Our God is the great healer – and the agent used more than any other is the NHS.

Today, we voice our gratitude for those who serve this country in the National Health Service and pray for that God would prosper the work of their hands – that they would all be encouraged in their continued work of sacrifice and care amongst us.

Friday

National and Local government

We pray for those who are in positions of authority with responsibility for decision making at national and local level at this time.

We ask that God would give great wisdom, deep commitment to all and right judgement.

Saturday

All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

'Lord the one love is ill...' John 11v3

We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief.

We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain. We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful - that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence.



St. Valentine's Quiz

1. Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?
2. Which was Shakespeare's most romantic play?
3. What was first created by Pope Gelasius in 500 AD, then deleted from the Roman Calendar of Saints by Pope Paul VI in 1969?
4. 'Valentine' was the name given to which kind of early Christian?
5. As well as being the unofficial patron saint of love, what occupation is St Valentine also believed to be the patron of?
6. If you're quick to show your feelings, where do you wear your heart?
7. Who led the Chicago gangsters behind the St Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929?
8. Which symbol does New York's Empire State Building illuminate on every Valentine's Day?
9. Which Scottish poet wrote *A Red, Red Rose*?
10. What is the name of the small heart-shaped sweets, manufactured by Swizzel, which have short romantic messages printed on them?

Answers

1. Dom Perignon
2. Romeo and Juliet
3. St. Valentine's Day
4. Martyrs
5. Bee keepers.
6. On your sleeve
7. Al Capone
8. A heart
9. Robbie Burns.
10. Love hearts

Are you a fan of quiz programmes?

If so, head over to the Baptist Union website to find out how Emma McPhail, an assistant minister in a Baptist Church in Eastbourne, got on when she appeared on The Chase!



Keep shining your light in whatever circumstances you find yourself!

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/601758/Keep_shining_your.aspx

Thought

Christ alone can bring lasting peace – peace with God – peace among men and nations – peace within our hearts.

Billy Graham