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**WELCOME TO MOUNT HERMON**

Sunday 2nd August 2020

**SCATTERED BUT UNITED**

To the saints in [Addingham], the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1 v 1-2

**Message from David**

As lockdown eases and we meet and talk to people again, what would you say to someone about how your faith has helped you through the pandemic? If you had to tell someone why you were a Christian, what difference it makes to your life, what would you say? Try dividing a piece of paper into 2 columns headed ‘life without reference to Jesus’ and ‘life trusting Jesus’ and jot down some comparisons based on what your life is like at the moment. If you have drifted from God, make a conscious decision to trust Jesus in spite of the current circumstances, recognising that he did not promise life would be easy, but does promise always to be with us. Take time to give thanks to God for the difference he makes to our lives, the hope and peace he gives. Then be ready to encourage others around you and to explain the hope you have.

1 Peter 3, 15-16

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

**Further Bible verses for reflection**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1 v 2-4

One thing I ask of the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Psalm 27 v 4-5

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16 v 33

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4 v 6-7

I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121, v 1-2

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no-one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40 v 28-31

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Mission Praise 746**  What a friend we have in Jesus,  all our sins and griefs to bear!  What a privilege to carry  everything to God in prayer!  O what peace we often forfeit,  O what needless pain we bear –  all because we do not carry  everything to God in prayer.  Have we trials and temptations?  Is there trouble anywhere?  We should never be discouraged:  take it to the Lord in prayer.  Can we find a friend so faithful,  who will all our sorrows share?  Jesus knows our every weakness –  take it to the Lord in prayer!  Are we weak and heavy-laden,  cumbered with a load of care?  Precious Saviour, still our refuge!  Take it to the Lord in prayer!  Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  Take it to the Lord in prayer!  In his arms he’ll take and shield thee,  thou wilt find a solace there. |  | **Mission Praise 1036**  Blessed be Your name  in the land that is plentiful,  where your streams of abundance flow,  blessed be Your name.  And blessed be Your name  when I’m found in the desert place,  though I walk through the wilderness,  blessed be Your name.  Every blessing You pour out I’ll  turn back to praise.  And when the darkness closes in, Lord,  still I will say:  *‘Blessed be the name of the Lord,*  *Blessed be Your name.*  *Blessed be the name of the Lord,*  *Blessed be Your glorious name.’*  Blessed be Your name  when the sun’s shining down on me,  when the world’s ‘all as it should be’,  blessed be Your name.  And blessed be Your name  on the road marked with suffering,  though there’s pain in the offering,  blessed be Your name.  Every blessing You pour out…  *‘Blessed be the name…’* | |

**Our vision: to help people find their way back to God**