

August 2020

Dear Friends

What a difference a day makes, one day it's raining the next day the sun is shining. The weather in July and August has been so changeable, such a difference from the amazing weather we had during the spring and early summer. As we move through the year, we are reminded of the changing seasons. The coming and going of the seasons are a reminder of God's promise that while the earth remains seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22)

We are familiar with the changing seasons, and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us of the changing seasons of life.

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.

A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest...

A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance...

There are many seasons in life and many types of seasons. Many of us have experienced the seasons of challenge and difficulty, the seasons of strain, stress and sickness, as well as the seasons of joy and delight, the seasons of refreshment, renewal and restoration. There are the seasons in life when we have different experiences, opportunities and responsibilities. Sometimes there are times, such as in the current pandemic, where something impacts on all our lives, but the impact varies for each one of us.

The good news in all of life is that God knows, loves and cares. He calls and invites us into a restored relationship with Himself, through faith in Jesus Christ, His Son, the One who suffered and died on the cross and was raised to life again. God wants us to know Him in a real and meaningful way, to know His loving presence in all the changing seasons and challenges of life, to know his sustaining grace, guidance and help, to know the presence of the Holy Spirit with us and in us.

In all the changing seasons and challenges of life, and in the challenges and concerns of these days, may we know that God's love remains constant and unchanging. The Bible contains many verses about God's love, and the cross is the clearest demonstration of God's love for us. God demonstrates his love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Many hymns and songs remind us of the extent of God's love for us. These include; 'How deep the Father's love for us', 'My song is love unknown', 'And can it be' – 'Amazing love, how can it be, that thou my God, shouldst die for me', and 'One thing remains'.

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains
This one thing remains
Your love never fails, and never gives up
It never runs out on me ...

Because on and on and on and on it goes
Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid
One thing remains
This one thing remains
Your love never fails, and never gives up
It never runs out on me ...

I pray that in the changing seasons and challenges of life you will know the full extent of God's love for you, that your relationship with Him will be deepened and enriched, that we will walk in His ways and fulfil His will, aware that He remains constant through the trial and the change and that His love never fails, and never gives up and never runs out on us.

Yours for the sake of Christ

Roderic