



9 JUNE 2024

Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us. A special welcome to Nyanna & Siale, (Lola's grandchildren), and their family and friends who are joining us for their baptisms.

Lectionary readings

This week 9 June, 2024

1 Samuel 8: 4-11, 16-20
Psalm 138
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Next Sunday 16 June, 2024

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Free Cot Mattress

Our Child Care Centre has a spare brand-new cot mattress looking for a new home. If you are interested, please see Sue.

World Vision Update

Recently one of our sponsored children, Mohammed, moved out of the program, so we have been given a new sponsored child named Alphonse. Here are his details.

My name is Alphonse. I live in Rwanda and I am 8 years old. I live with my mother and I have a brother and a sister. The chore I do at home is carrying water. My favourite activities are ball games. I attend primary school and the language I speak is Kinyarwanda.





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Thoughts on 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Paul depicts the life of faith in the Messiah in the starkest of terms. It involves dying in order to live. But how does this paradoxical “dying to live” and “living by dying” actually take place in our everyday lives? Why is it life-giving for others? And what sustains us in the midst of all this death?

What grounds our faith or trust is knowing that “the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us”. Such knowing emerges precisely as we place our confidence not in ourselves but in the one who raises the dead and brings life out of nothing. It has to do with relying on God *now* amid whatever may be happening to us — trusting that the one who has rescued us in the past will continue to rescue us.

Faith, then, is not just about believing a doctrine that guarantees our ego’s immortal existence. It has to do with grace — God’s gift freely given for all — which always shifts our focus from self-interest to the interests of others.

How does all this actually take place in our everyday lives? For one thing, faith does not immune us from suffering. Yet, through faith, as our “outer” self is threatened or “wasting away,” our “inner” self is being “renewed daily” .

What Paul is depicting here is a distinctive way of perceiving and responding to life, one that involves attending to what is “unseen” (which is eternal) precisely amid what is “seen” (which is temporary). Perceiving all that happens to us in this way gives us courage. It frees us to acknowledge that the “spaces” in which we live — our “earthly tents” — are not ultimately secure.

The physical spaces we identify with — bodies, homes, churches, temples, even cities and nations — can all be destroyed. Even the social spaces that define us — our spheres of influence, our interpersonal and societal networks, and even our cultures — are not completely in our control.

But amid the insecurity of these flimsy “tents,” we find we have a building from God, a house not made by human hands. What the Spirit creates within and among us through faith is nothing other than God’s overflowing, freely given reign of justice and mercy — making our lives a roomy and expansive domain of grace.

Lois Malcolm - workingpreacher.org