

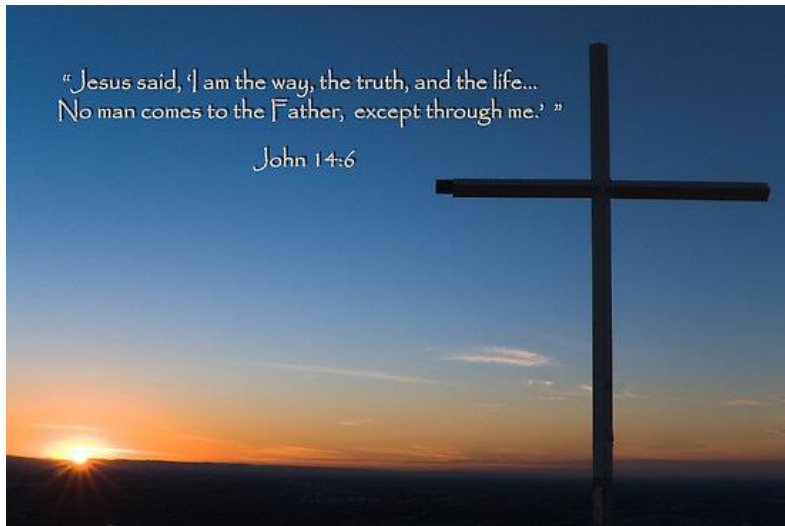
Henley-in-Arden Baptist Church

“Staying Connected” 10 – Sunday 24th May 2020

Staying connected to God and each other while not meeting as church in the normal way

I hope you are finding ways to stay as well as you can in these ongoing challenging times

We are at the sixth of our series on the “I am” sayings of Jesus. This week, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6) [John 14:1-14]



Jesus is spending some time with the disciples before his impending departure, encouraging them: “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (v1) – He will go on to talk about the promise of the Holy Spirit – to be with them. But first we have these famous words in v6.

Sometimes folk like to have conversations about life, the universe and everything. What is life all about, what is truth? may be among the questions. Well, as Jesus shows, these questions aren’t a matter of philosophy or any other clever system of thought. The answer to life’s deepest questions (and the simpler ones too) is to be found in a person! Jesus Himself is the answer to all these questions and more.

That is why Christianity is at the end of the day about *relationship* rather than religion. It’s about getting to know Jesus; and putting our faith and trust in Him. And because He is so good, then it very much makes sense to do just that.

And it’s clear that God’s way is both *inclusive* because all are invited: the message of Jesus is for all, not just a select few; and *exclusive* because as the cross demonstrates there is no other way. So let’s pray for opportunity and faithfulness in sharing this good news – of God’s love for all in Jesus!

Interestingly, the first Christians were originally known as followers of ‘the Way’ (see references throughout Acts). They chose to live in His ways, which included sacrificial love. And they – as we - would enjoy the benefit of eternal life – through Jesus, their Lord.

Thank you Lord, for the grace and truth we receive in Your Son
(John 1:14)

We thank You for the measure of seeking faith that is evident as folk look for spiritual help at this time. And we pray that the scattered church would be faithful in its witness to You; and would be able to help spread the gospel message with confidence.

We pray for cashiers, carers, cleaners.... driving instructors, dancers, drilling engineers.... [others you can think of]. We thank you for their contribution to society and pray for those who are worried about an unsure future. Give Your peace we pray.

Lord God, we continue to pray for healing of those who are unwell; and care for those who need extra support. May Your vast and deep love be brought to bear on all those on our hearts.

Lord Jesus, You are the way.
Help us to follow in Your way – with confidence – step by step,
lead us on we pray

Lord Jesus, You are the truth
Help us to grasp more of what that might mean – to get to know
You better. Lead us into all truth we pray

Lord Jesus, You are the life
We thank you Lord for the gift of eternal life. We worship You
now; and we look forward to seeing You face to face – all made
possible by Your grace

And finally, we thank You for the promise of the Holy Spirit to be
with us and to help us.

We bring our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Thank you and well done to those who supplied several ‘c’s and ‘d’s! (One or two of you are clearly after a prize!)

Quiz Question

Next Sunday is a special Sunday on the Christian calendar. What is it? And what is it all about?

Worship services on Radio and TV this Sunday include:

- Radio 4 8:10am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 11:45am Sunday Worship
- BBC1 1:15pm Songs of Praise

Another resource - for those not online – that you may be interested in is the Church of England free ‘Daily Hope’ telephone service, where you can phone up to hear hymns, prayers and reflections - 0800 804 8044

And finally, remember to stay connected with each other by ‘phone especially, and feel free to call me at any time

May God bless you with His peace.

Mike

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God is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..”
(Ephesians 3:20)