

Dear friends,

In these difficult day when many are weary of self isolation and anxious about health and wellbeing, it is good that we can take heart and encouragement from the word of God.

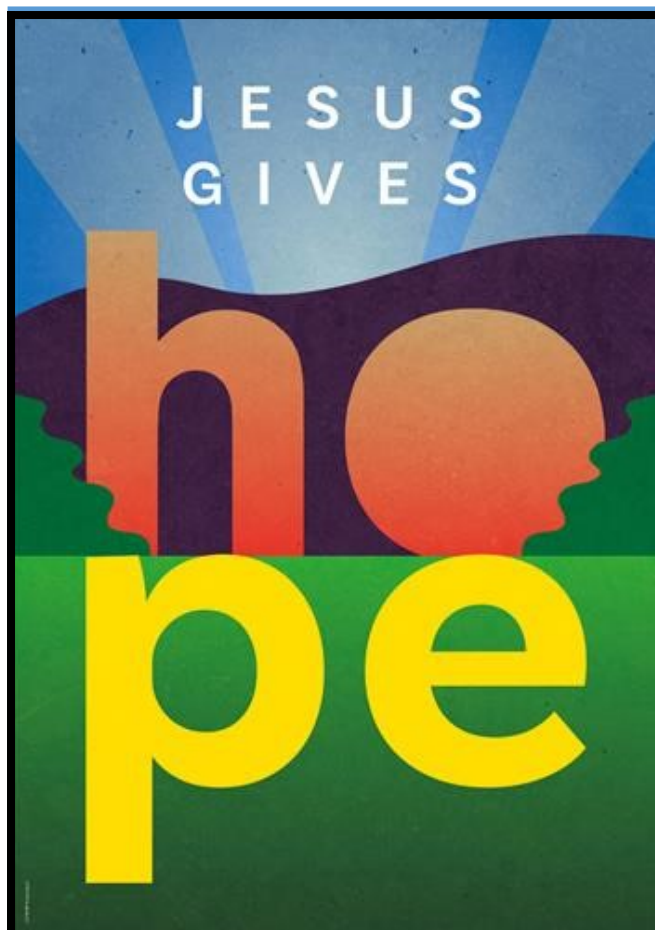
The psalmist says: "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you." (Psalm 33: 20-22).

Waiting is never easy but God comes quickly to our aid when we cry out to him. His love is constant and has been shown supremely in Jesus who gave his all for us at the cross.

We've been praying that this period of "social isolation" may bring home to many our greater isolation from God our maker and redeemer. The sin that Jesus came to deal with is our alienation from him who longs to have us back to himself that we might enjoy a restored relationship with him and all the other benefits of the cross— peace with God and peace within in, knowing sins forgiven and the assurance of salvation. Our government is concerned about "saving lives." That message reminds us what Easter is all about: Jesus takes on the "unseen enemy" to defeat Him that we might be released from his dastardly and deadly control. To share in Christ's victory over sin and death and hell is to overcome all that stands against us and to be "more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8.37). To be in the Saviour's care and keeping is the safest place of all.

At this time, we pray for those who are at risk and those who are selflessly risking their own health in their care for others; for all who are suffering or struggling. We pray for wisdom and protection to be given to our politicians as they govern and for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and for those who have lost employment or who are facing financial difficulties. We pray that as a church, we may not lose hope but seize the opportunities that God has given us to worship, pray and serve that the Lord may be glorified and that his kingdom may come in the midst of despair and desolation. We pray that the Lord may have mercy upon us for our failings and our waywardness and bring us to a new and revived faith with a new earnestness and prayerfulness.

Hold on in faith "until the day breaks and the shadows flee." (Song of Songs 4.6).      Kenneth Donald.



ZOOM: If you have broadband, you will be able to join us on a Sunday morning (11am) for a time of worship. Jane has sent emails to those whose email addresses we hold on file. If you would like to find details of how to connect with us for worship (or prayer on Tuesdays at 7pm). Contact Jane:

hpbrnfamily@aol.com. Tel: 610758.

NO INTERNET?- No problem! You can phone us and we will send you Zoom's local number (entering a code for each meeting) for you to connect with us by phone to listen in.

Givings— We are encouraging members to consider giving by bank transfer or standing order. Phone our treasurer, Margaret: 899041 for details.