



Sunday 26th April 2020
Our Weekly Update and Devotion

Good morning everyone

Here we are at the end of week 4 and the beginning of week 5 and I hope that everyone is managing this critical time well. As an update of news at Park Church, I can say that we conducted the funeral service of John Moxey at Linn Crematorium and I know that Linda Moxey, her sister Lesley, her brother John and each of their families were encouraged to hear of how many were able to follow the service online. For those who did not see it and would like to, there is an opportunity for you to still tune in to the Crematorium Website and if you need password information etc, then I can help you with that so please get in touch.

There was the sad news of the death of Mr Bernard Burns whose wife Jennifer has been a faithful attender at Worship and I will be conducting Mr Burn's funeral service on Wednesday 29th April in Linn Crematorium at 11.45am and while this particular situation will be a more intimate setting without the online option, I would ask that you remember Jennifer and her close friends at this time in Prayer, that God in his goodness will keep them and sustain them through that day and the days to come.

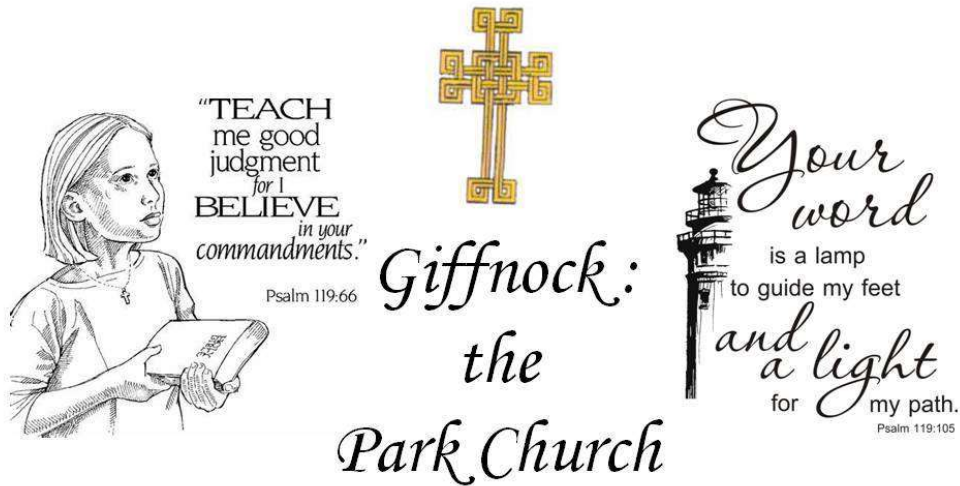
In an interesting turn of events Park Church has been requested to make our halls available for a volunteer service who have been hand- making PPE Gowns , Masks, etc for our Health Service and Care Providers and I was more than happy for us at Park Church to come alongside this initiative, and help in this way. What began as a few friends wanting to help has apparently mushroomed into a cottage industry because of the demands both near and far that can no long be sustained in a person's home here in Giffnock and so we hope that beginning this week we will see Park Church effectively become a Distribution Depot with people coming to the Church to uplift goods ready to be shipped out.

As always, the following pages will contain a Devotion and some music for your consideration over the weekend and I hope that the thoughts expressed are able to encourage you and sustain you during this uncertain time. We give thanks that discoveries of better treatment and advances towards a vaccine and continue to pray for the wisdom of those at every level of decision making political and otherwise as we all strive to combat the spread of this disease in big ways and small ways

All of us here at the manse hope you remain well and keep clear of this awful blight that is C19 and hope that you get to enjoy the simple things like good weather and a slightly slower pace of things (for most of us at least).

With best Wishes and Prayers for you all

Calum D. Macdonald



1 Peter 5: 7

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you.

Let us Pray

Our gracious God and Father, once again as one week draws to a close and a new week dawns help us to see the ways in which we might recognise your hand at work. We thank You that in such times as this when we are conscious of the frailty and nature that life is and has for us that we can look to you the One who is eternal and the conqueror of death itself. We thank for the Risen Saviour who is forever to us a living reminder of your Grace and power and love and our simple plea this day is as your Word suggest that we cast all our worries, our fears or anxieties into your gracious hands so that in this action we might see your sustaining power keep us and guard over us in these worrying times. Be with our families and friends, all whom we love this day.

Forgive us for our lack of faith at times when we look away from You and see all that is going on roundabout. Help us to see the bigger picture that you see and how we might recognise your blessings in disguise.

God our Father, we pray for those roundabout us, our neighbours and friends seeking that they might see your hand at work during this critical time. Help us to see the ways in which we might be of service to in practical and spiritual ways, that we all might see your hand at work in the lives of each one of us

We pray each one on our congregations locally and nationally at this time. We remember those especially who grieve today and pray that they might know the certainty of your peace and the strength of your Comfort. We pray that as your Church seeks to find ways to offer a Christian witness, that you would bless those who find the means to be of service as a food bank or supplier of goods to those who might need it the most.

We pray for Vision, vision to see the future with a sense of hope and not despair. Give us courage and confidence, compassion and care that we might help others through this difficult time. Grant courage to all who are in the front line of Health Provision and Social Care this day, Keep them free of infection, strengthen them and uphold them particularly in these days to come. For all who travel to provide equipment and food – we pray for safety on the journey. For all who work in the stores from management to the stacking of shelves give them patience for those who panic, for those who are intolerant of others and for those who selfishly look only to themselves. Above all may we always see your hand of blessing in all our lives this day and every day.

All this we ask in Jesus' name

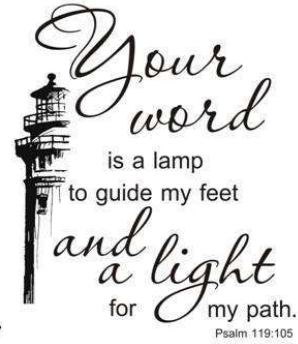
Amen



"TEACH
me good
judgment
for I
BELIEVE
in your
commandments."
Psalm 119:66



Giffnock: the Park Church



Your
word
is a lamp
to guide my feet
and a light
for my path.
Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119: 1 - 16

(New International Version (NIV))

& Aleph

¹ *Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.*

² *Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—*

³ *they do no wrong but follow his ways.*

⁴ *You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.*

⁵ *Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!*

⁶ *Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.*

⁷ *I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.*

⁸ *I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.*

Beth

⁹ *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.*

¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.*

¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*

¹² *Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.*

¹³ *With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.*

¹⁴ *I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.*

¹⁵ *I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.*

¹⁶ *I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*



Some Thoughts for Reflection

As we come to reflect on these opening words of Psalm 119, I was reminded of a story about my Father many years ago. I found him to be a man of deep faith at times teaching me a number of lessons on the way in some of the profound things he said. He grew up in one of the Villages in the northern part of the isle of Lewis and Harris and as young man left school and went to Sea. When He married my mum he settled down to married life and gave up life at Sea for working on the Docks of the River Clyde for many years as a Boatman. He was what was then described as a semi-skilled labourer which basically meant that he could do a whole raft of jobs but didn't have the qualifications. That also summed up my dad in terms of the skills he had. He was not the most academic of men but he was brilliant with his hands. People in the street when they saw him working on his car would seek his advice. In practical terms, he did all his own plumbing although not a plumber, all his own electrical work although not an electrician and when it came to working with wood, it was amazing to see how he could craft and shape things so well and the finished article would look amazing.

So when Wilma and I got married, it seemed only natural that we would call on his service when we went to MFI (Made For Idiots) to get some furniture for the bedroom. We picked up the wardrobes and shelves and arranged for my dad to help. By that I really meant that he would take charge and I would be the worker's mate. As a boy growing up a love of Airfix models I knew the value of checking the parts were all there but my dad, he would just begin construction where he felt it was best to start and the instructions were put to the side. So, when we discovered that certain screws were all missing we had to pack it all back up again and go to the store and get a new wardrobe carcass. My dad learned a valuable lesson that day, that sometimes it is a good thing to follow the instructions beginning with a Checklist. Indeed, the recommendation on many of these occasions is "FOR BEST RESULTS - FOLLOW THE MAKER'S INSTRUCTIONS". Let me say in fairness to my dad that when he was finished building it, these wardrobes lasted us for many years to come and looked great all the while.

I am sure we have all heard the saying that, "If all else fails follow the instructions". This has never been more-true than these times we are currently living through. Instructions and guidelines are constantly being updated all through the Covid 19 crisis about socially distancing oneself and how we can or cannot meet in public. These apply throughout the whole community but also individually.

While that is applicable now, such principles and rules in Psalm 119 that apply to the community as a whole and as individuals of the Old and New Testament can also be seen to apply not then particularly because they are continue to be applicable today. According to one Commentary, (Critical and Explanatory on the whole Bible) they describe Psalm 119 in this way...

"This celebrated Psalm has several peculiarities. It is divided into twenty-two parts or stanzas, denoted by the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each stanza contains eight verses, and the first letter of each verse is that which gives name to the stanza. Its contents are mainly praises of God's Word, exhortations to its perusal, and reverence for it, prayers for its proper influence, and complaints of the wicked for despising it. **There are but two verses (Psalms 119:122 Psalms 119:132 which do not contain some term or description of God's Word.** The Psalm does not appear to have any relation to any special occasion or interest of the Jewish Faith or Nation, but **was evidently "intended as a manual of pious thoughts, especially for instructing the young,** and its peculiar artificial structure was probably adopted to aid the memory in retaining the language."

CH Spurgeon, " the Prince of Preachers" in his great work on the Psalms known as the Treasury of David was convinced of it being written by King David while many of his contemporaries were not, but they could all agree that there was one consistent theme, that the tenets and principles of that which is God's Word to the Church and individuals alike, are there not just for our guidance but for our application. The Book of James in the New Testament said, "Be doers of the Word" (James 1: 22) That Echoes the whole theme of Psalm 119 but for 2 verses. We should treasure the wisdom of these words written so long ago, that was written for our guidance and for our benefit ultimately. My counsel to you today is this - that our bibles are not books just to sit on our shelves and gather dust till when we try everything else before going to God and his Word. Instead it should be the starting point for any guidance we need in life, practical and/or spiritual and I pray that this will be so. God bless us all in this Coming Week.

Calum D. Macdonald



*And the God of all
grace, who called you to
his eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a
little while, will himself
restore you and make you
strong, firm and steadfast.
11 To him be the power
for ever and ever. Amen.*