

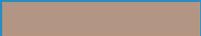


# Church In Transition

Frontline Sundays - Whatever We Do  
18th July 2021



Some of the material, including text and images, in this service are provided by The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity as part of their **Frontline Sundays** resource.

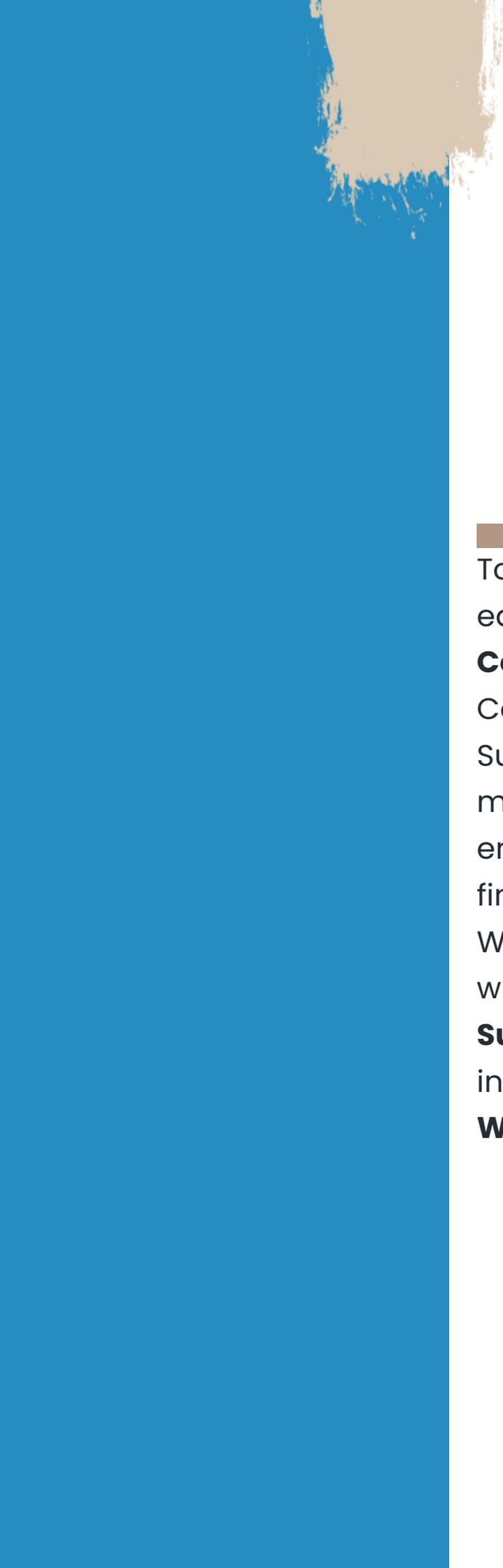


# Welcome

We are now back worshipping at Church in our In - Person services. We have decided that for the foreseeable future we will be continuing with our flexible worship patterns which will still blends on - line services, home deliveries and E - mailed copies of Church in Transition.

Today's service will be looking at: **Colossians 3 v. 15 - 24**

The theme for today's service is: **Whatever We Do . . . . .**



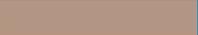
Today's service that is set out in this edition of **Church In Transition** includes **Communion**.

Continuing this week and for a few more Sundays we continue to look at what it means to be a '**Frontline Church**' engaging with God and others where we find ourselves throughout the week.

We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Sunday Service** and that we would indeed **Make All The Difference Whatever We Do**.

**Whatever  
we do**

Ice - Frontline Sundays



# Frontline Sundays 3

## Whatever We Do

Whatever we do – the ‘work of our hands’, however small and insignificant it may seem – matters to God.

It’s part of our worship and how we serve others and bear witness to God.

# Call To Worship

**Psalm 111 v. 1 - 10 NLT**

Praise the Lord!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart

As I meet with his godly people.

How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!

All who delight in him should

ponder them.

Everything he does reveals his glory and  
majesty.

His righteousness never fails.

Who can forget the wonders he  
performs?

How gracious and merciful is our Lord!

He gives food to those who trust him;

He always remembers his covenant.

He has shown his great power to his

People by giving them the land of  
other nations.

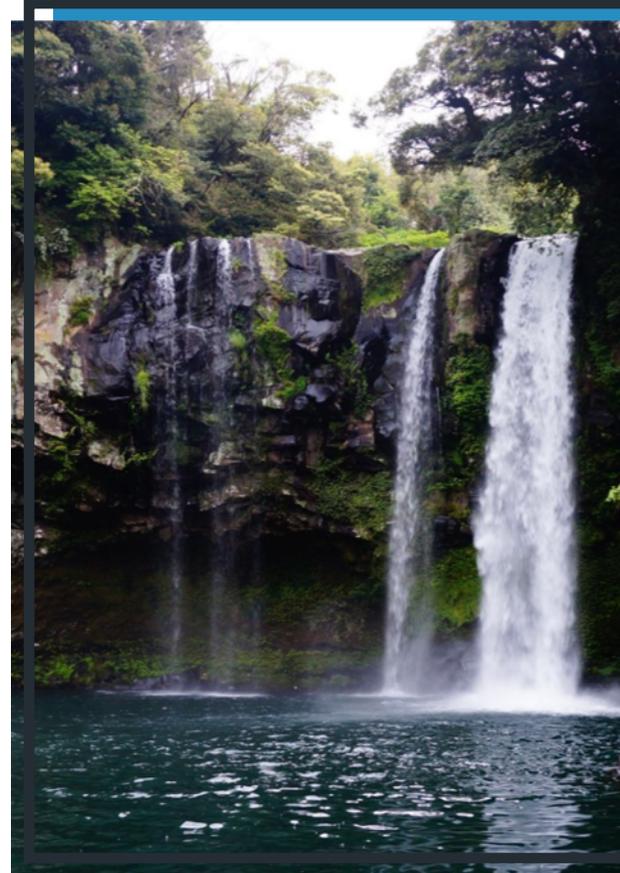
All he does is just and good,

And all his commandments are  
trustworthy.

They are forever true,

To be obeyed faithfully and with integrity.

He has paid a full ransom for his people.



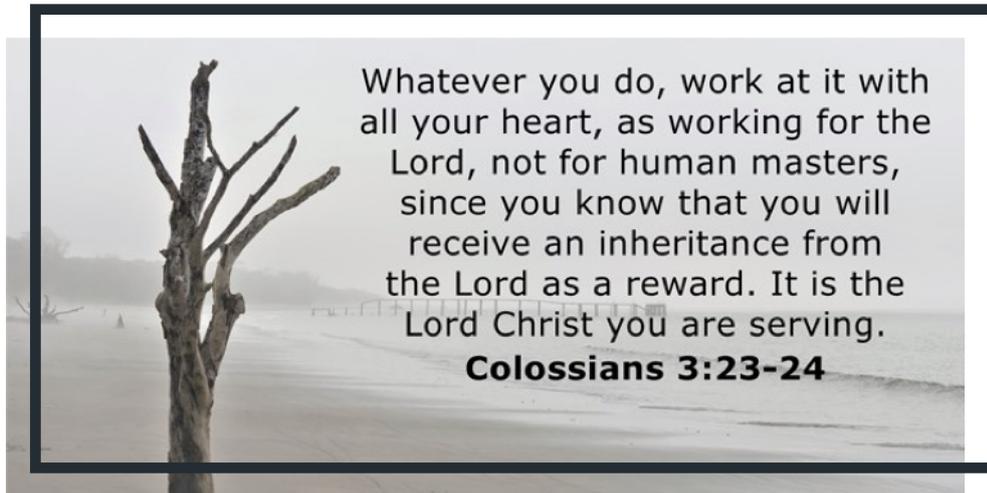
He has guaranteed his covenant  
with them forever.

What a holy, awe—inspiring name  
he has!

Reverence for the Lord is the foundation of  
true wisdom.

The rewards of wisdom comes to all who  
obey him.

Praise his name forever!



Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

**Colossians 3:23-24**

# Opening Prayer

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayers and praise this day we pray.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Living God: in this building here at Salendine Nook that has been used to the sound of singing, where there have been baptisms and funerals, where people have come to be married, or to celebrate the birth of a child; this church, where some have wept, and some have been filled with joy, where people have struggled with the deep things of life, a

place where some have prayed urgently, been stirred and changed; in this place where you have so often been with your people, be with us now today we pray.

You are a generous and bountiful God, all good things come from you and we want to say thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do in this place. May we be obedient to your will in order to serve you all the days of our lives.

We ask these things in the precious name of Jesus.

**Amen**

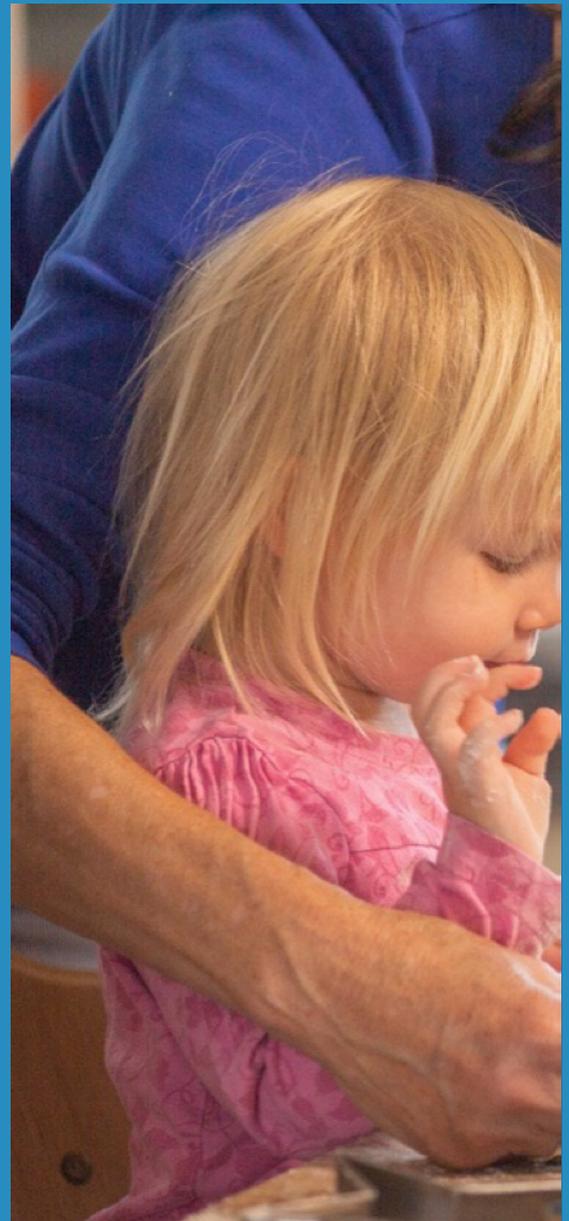
# A Short Film

In this film, formed like an unspoken prayer, we see our four characters going about their daily tasks.

They remind us that, so often, it is through what we do that God gets done what he wants done in the world.

Notice how the characters recognise the value of their tasks in God's economy, whilst seeking God's wisdom on how to serve him well.

To view the short film click [here](#). Once you're finished, return to the service to continue.



# Frontline Prayer

Lord, as we scatter to our frontline places, we thank you for the many opportunities to do good in the world.

Whatever the tasks of our week, wherever we are, we pray that you will work through them and they will bear fruit for your kingdom.

May we do all things attentive to your presence and with a heart set on working at them for you, first and foremost.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

From Heaven You Came



# Bible

# Reading

## Colossians 3 v. 15 - 24 NIV

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Instructions for Christian Households

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or

they will become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

# Communion

Today is a Sunday when we would normally share communion together. We come together today remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church or at home as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together.

We are able to do this by getting a small glass of red juice (**fruit juice, squash etc.**) and a small piece of bread and 'sharing these elements' at a time that is convenient to you.

**(Normally as a church we will do this during the morning service at about 11.30 am)**

Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I receive from the Lord what I pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, **(you might like to pray at this point)** he broke it and said 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' **(This is the time to eat the bread)**. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **(Now is the time to drink the cup)**. For whenever you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## 1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 – 26

If you would like to do this today with us, if you are at home, then please do so, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with you today.



# Church In Transition Thought

**FRONTLINE SUNDAYS 3**

**WHATEVER WE DO . . . . .**

**Whatever we do – the ‘work’ of our hands, however small and insignificant it may seem – matters to God.**

**It’s part of our worship and how we serve others and bear witness to God.**

**There can be Kingdom significance in our daily tasks and activities, however great or small.**

Paul knew that whatever early Christians were doing in worship, in work, indeed, in all of life, could be significant to God. What made the difference was doing all these things as working for the Lord. Today’s situations may be different, but that commitment to Jesus as Lord remains the same.

Paul's letter to the Colossians describes the kind of community God was calling them to be. But he makes clear that this was not inward-focused. Their daily lives were to be marked by love, kindness, and compassion in their places of work or activity, and in their relationships. The social conditions assumed in the passage aren't the same social conditions that most of us face today. However, the principles that flow from it are as applicable now as much as then. Commitment to Jesus as Lord is to be worked out in daily life, in relationship with others, and bound up in our service of Jesus himself.

### **Whatever you do...**

Most of the people hearing the letter being read out would have been slaves, the household servants. In many ways, they kept the economy of the Roman empire going. But they had very little control over their lives. It would have been tempting for them to think that their daily tasks were insignificant. Paul's encouragement to them offered a new way of seeing that these daily tasks mattered. Some Christians still feel that their tasks may be important, but that ultimately, they don't really matter to God. They live with the sense of a Sacred/Secular Divide. This verse destroys that dichotomy. Paul will have none of that.

It may be significant that this clause 'whatever you do' is repeated in **Colossians 3**. It comes the first time in **Colossians 3 v. 17** where the context seems to be that the 'whatever...' will be in a worship context – **verse 15** refers to the body of Christ, **verse 16** refers to the word of Christ and the songs that are sung together. But Paul repeats the idea in **Colossians 3 v. 23** where the context is the everyday working context that the household slaves found themselves in. 'Whatever you do...' whether it is in our gathered worship or in our scattered everyday lives, it all matters.

Whatever we do...

### **Do it ALL in the name of Jesus**

When we do something in the name of Jesus, we are acting as Jesus' representative. We are his ambassadors. So, I can parent my children or be a friend in his name. I can price a job or run a business meeting in his name. I can plumb a sink in Jesus' name, coach a team in Jesus' name, bathe this patient in Jesus' name. We are each called to be Christ's ambassadors, to represent him in what we do and say. What does it mean to do our daily tasks in Jesus' name?

## **Do it with ALL your heart**

How do you help people who are looked down on, who are thought to be insignificant? Paul subverts the slave - owner relationship by helping slaves see that they are actually working for the Lord, not just their owners. As they work with ALL their hearts – it is part of their worship, they are serving the Lord.

What sort of actions and words will make this true in our lives, in the life of our neighbourhood, our workplace, our school or our club?

## **Connecting with the congregation**

The congregational activity in the booklet, which suggests a way of offering the daily 'work' of our hands to God, is a great way to connect the sermon to their everyday contexts.

You might also like to visit one or two of your church members as part of your sermon preparation this week, perhaps even on their frontlines.

Or gather a small group together to discuss the passage and discover how their lives might illustrate the text for the rest of the congregation.

They may raise questions, too, that could be helpful to answer in the sermon for the whole community.

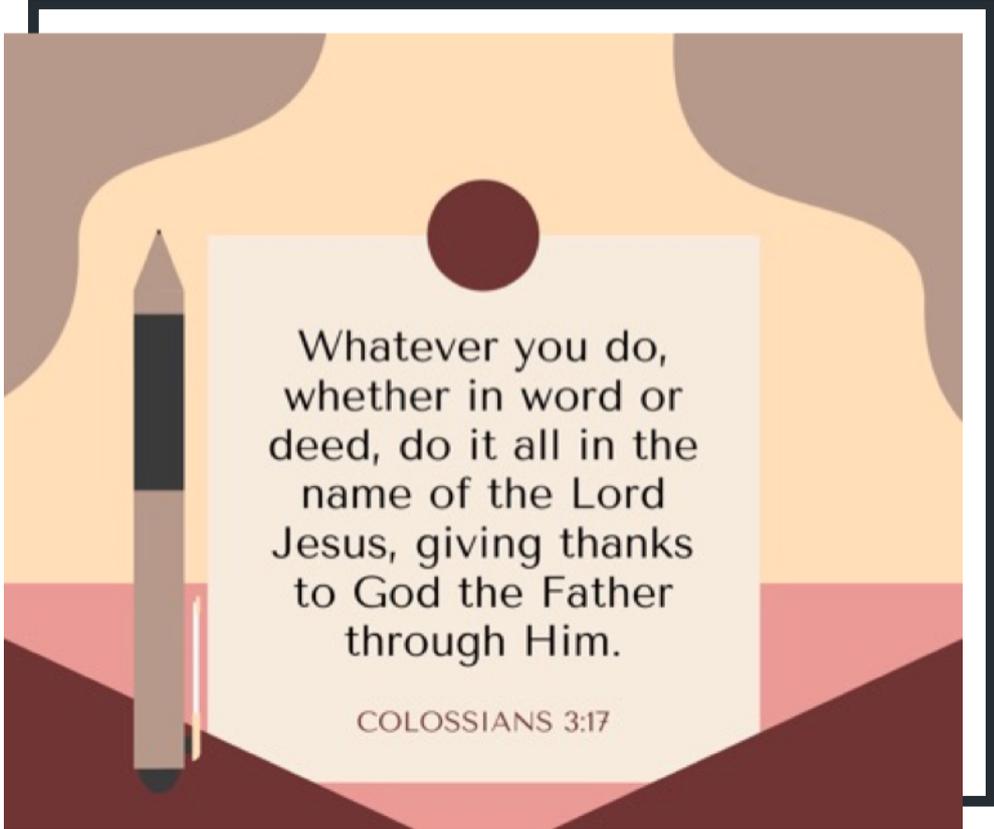
# Congregational Activity

## Offer Up Our Daily Tasks

**For this activity, you will need an object from your home, or a paper and pen.**

Choose an object that symbolises your frontline e.g. a spanner, a mug, a school book. Alternatively, draw an object on a piece of paper.

When you have your object, pray and offer your daily tasks to God.



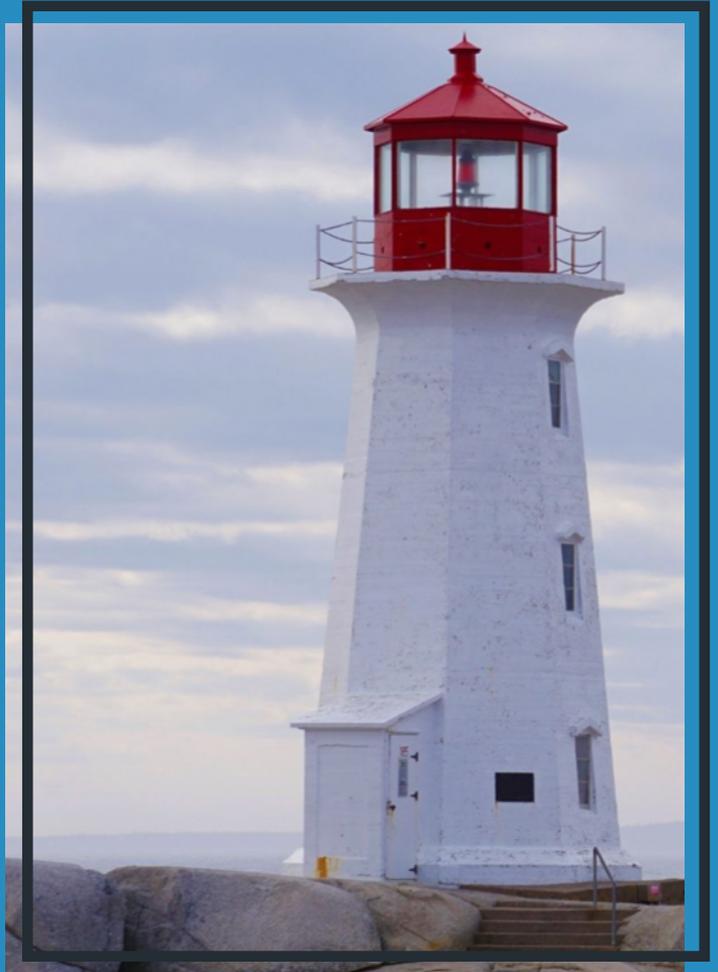
Whatever you do,  
whether in word or  
deed, do it all in the  
name of the Lord  
Jesus, giving thanks  
to God the Father  
through Him.

COLOSSIANS 3:17

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# Song Suggestion

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah



# Prayers of Intercession

**Our Prayers of Intercession this morning are based on the well known Hymn:**

**'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'**

Lord, as you hear our worship today and rejoice in our friendship, so hear our prayer we pray.

**Guide me O thou great Jehovah** for all facing tough choices at work or in personal life, for leaders of the nations . . . **Lead them all their journeys through**

**And use us – if not in our wisdom then in our humanity – to show a way to the One who is the Way, the Truth, the Life**

**I am weak but thou art mighty** for all who feel vulnerable, abused or at risk, for the community of Salendine Nook and for all those near to us . . . **Hold them with your powerful hand**

**Show us how we may be your hands and how even our weakness might be a conduit for your strength**



**Bread of heaven – feed me now and evermore** for those who live today in real hunger because their crops have failed or their land is bad or because they have no reward for their labour or because no one wants their labour or they are too unfit to work **Feed them now and evermore**

**Prosper the work of the various Aid Organisations and Charities and all those working for short – term relief and long – term quality of life**

**Bread of heaven – feed me now and evermore** for those who have a hunger for meaning and purpose, for those asking themselves today: God where are you? Jesus who are you? **Feed them now and evermore** that they might find God in Jesus Christ

**When I tread the verge of Jordan** for those facing death or serious illness, for those anxiously awaiting tests or surgery, for those who care for them and watch with them **Bid their anxious fears subside**

**And make us agents of your loving care so that whatever side we are landed we and all your people may know your care and love to be stronger than death.**

So then with **Songs of praises, we will ever sing to thee, Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you were  
called to peace. And be thankful.

- Colossians 3:15 -



# Offering

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Now that we find ourselves once again holding in-person services in church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

However, if you feel that you are not ready to return to in-person services yet, please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you until the time arises when you feel that you can physically meet with us again and share in the finances of the church.

# Blessing

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Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint - hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**AMEN**