



The Lighthouse



SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021 - PENTECOST +11 - ISSUE 63

Sing along ...

*And now, the end is near
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll make it clear
I'll state my case, of which I am certain*

Yes, the final curtain is here. And like Frank Sinatra, we did it our way! And what a good way it was. Many people have said how much they appreciated the connection to church life that *The Lighthouse* brought them. The aim was always to bring people closer together so they would know the presence of God in an uncertain time.

In one of my devotionals this week I read:

"Deep down, at the core of our being, we all have a longing for wholeness. The way we experience this basic desire in our day-to-day lives may be different. Maybe it's a sense of belonging when we experience meaning with someone or are accepted. Maybe it's a hollow feeling of disconnection or loneliness, or perhaps it's a compulsion to soothe pain in an unhealthy way. Whatever the case, the desire for wholeness is basic to the human experience."

One way, as a Church, we accommodated the desire for wholeness was to publish *The Lighthouse*. Now times are changing we need to make sure we continue to look after the needs of all as we long for wholeness in our lives.

The Bible tells the story that humans are designed for connection with God and with others. In Proverbs 3 it says:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

We have a lot of tasks to complete as a church in the next few months, but none as important as making sure all our church family finds wholeness and healing. The biblical story offers hope that despite the inevitable pain of disconnection, living one true connected life brings wholeness. Let us all pray together that we would work hard to keep that connection strong, and to find ways to make the tie that binds even stronger. But above all, trust in God, his ways are perfect and true.

It's been a privilege to share with you week by week, and I look forward to sharing with you in this next phase of church life.

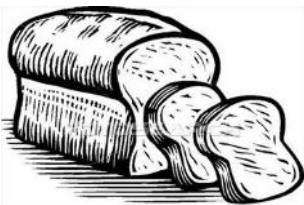
Blessings, Neil



Something to make you think...

I Am the Bread of Life

Sometime this week you will make a trip to the grocery store to get a loaf of bread. It will be readily available on the shelf. There will be quite a variety to choose from. You will pay little attention to the price, not realizing that the packaging that the bread is wrapped in actually costs more than the wheat that is in the bread. All in all, you will think it a very uneventful trip, but you will be wrong.



It is quite difficult for me, as an American, to understand the importance of bread unless I turn on my TV and watch what is going on in so many parts of the world today. When there is no staff of life there is suffering and famine. A simple loaf of bread:

Something, which we do not give a second thought, but in certain parts of the world it means life itself.

It is only as we comprehend that situation that we can really begin to understand the importance of bread not only now but also in the time of Jesus. Just think for a moment how so many significant theological events in the Bible revolve around the subject of bread. The most important event in the Old Testament of course, was the Exodus event--the trip from Egypt to the Promised Land. But what caused the Hebrews to be in Egypt in the first place? It was for want of bread you will recall. The wheat crop had failed due to drought, and the Hebrews had migrated to the land of the Pharaoh because there was a surplus in storage there. It was bread, or the lack of it, that initiated this whole chain of events...

www.sermons.com

Our Help Comes from Above

Looking out at my backyard during the fall, I noticed the leaves falling while the tree branches remained stretching heavenward--not only did they remain that way after the leaves were gone, but when the snows came and the often brutal winds of Chicago seemed to bend them into submission. But in the spring the trees seemed to speak to me saying, "Notice that we kept our branches lifted towards where our help comes from." To me it seemed that they praised God with or without leaves, as if they knew that keeping their branches up was a means of patient



waiting faith, and it was in the spring when the buds appeared on their branches that those trees seemed to say to me, "We told you. We told you that our help comes from above."

So not only does this text tell us that God provides through Jesus not what we want but what we need and that God's promise can sustain us through all times, but, finally, the text tells us God's presence through Jesus allows us room to grow in grace.

Ozzie E. Smith, Jr., What Do You Want?

Daily Hope

If you haven't heard of it, "Daily Hope" is a free telephone service accessed by dialling 0800 804 8044. It has been running all through the pandemic.

After Justin's short introduction, as soon as Pippa starts talking, you can press whichever number you choose i.e. 3 is currently "Holiday at Home" which features memories of past holidays at either the sea, in the country etc. and gives sounds, poems, a Bible verse etc.

No 1 is a hymn which is played and then the history of how it came to be written is given, very illuminating, and then the hymn is played again followed by a prayer.

The full programme is given for you to choose from. Each section is usually repeated weekly but there are different topics at times. Previous to the "Holiday at Home" were reflections which daily gave a "Have a Go Habit" which were helpful suggestions such as breathing deeply and saying "blessed" and saying the forgiveness part of the Lord's Prayer each lunch time.

Anyway, people I mentioned it to have found it helpful as have I so ...

Have a Go!.

Sue Hudson



A free phonenumber of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.



Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS

66 Books – all in one poem!

Do you know the 66 books of the Bible... in the right order? Maybe you can try to learn them by singing them as a song?

But here's a poem that will help you to learn something about what they teach us. Take a deep breath... and off you go!

GENESIS tells how it all began the world, redemption, sin and man.

In EXODUS we plainly see how God can set His people free.

LEVITICUS shows the way to God only through sacrifice and blood.

In NUMBERS the tribes in order stand – ready to take the promised land.

In DEUTERONOMY sons are trained – the land they lost must now be gained.

JOSHUA by God's almighty hand – led the people and conquered the land.

In JUDGES evil develops faster disobedience always brings disaster.

In RUTH our great Redeemer is shown – finding and claiming His bride for His own.

SAMUEL the prophet tells of kings two – Saul was false but David was true.

In SAMUEL 2 he tells again – that a monarch's sins cause fearful pain.

In 1 KINGS is built the House of the Lord but Ahab and others defy His Word.

In 2 KINGS most had the Lord forsaken so Israel is conquered and captive taken.

In CHRONICLES David taught the nation – work and warfare and true adoration.

But in 2 CHRONICLES sad to say – Judah too is carried away.

EZRA rebuilt the House of the Lord and taught the people His holy Word.

NEHEMIAH rebuilt Jerusalem's walls, and organised work for one and all.

In ESTHER the power of God is great, to save the Jews from an awful fate.

JOB is afflicted with pain and sorrow but God provides him a bright tomorrow.

The PSALMS are lovely for every day for they guide through the ups and downs of the way.

And PROVERBS too, to discerning eyes, is full of sayings both short and wise.

In ECCLESIASTES there's peace for none – who fix their hope all 'under the sun'

So SONG OF SONGS shows that peace and rest are found in Him Who is better than best.

ISAIAH sings of that glorious day, when sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

While JEREMIAH strikes a note that's sad – For the nation's living was slack and bad.

In LAMENTATIONS we hear the Saviour's cry – 'Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?'

EZEKIEL describes the great 'City Square' and God's judgements on those who refuse to prepare.

And DANIEL the loved one was plainly shown, earth's great empires overthrown.

HOSEA had an unfaithful wife, who portrayed Israel, true to life.

While JOEL sounds forth a mighty word, of 'the great and terrible Day of the Lord'

AMOS gave warning to far and near, but alas! No single nation would hear.

OBADIAH warned Edom of deadly pride, oh, where in the Judgment Day will he hide?

JONAH was scared to go where he ought, and in the strangest way, had to be taught!

MICAH tells of the Saviour's birth, how, in Bethlehem's village, God came to earth!

And NAHUM says that God's anger is great, for those whose repentance comes too late.

While HABAKKUK sees from his watchtower high, that God is enough when all other

things fly

ZEPHANIAH shows joy of the God above, when His people return to the ways of love. HAGGAI says, 'Get up and work! – this is no time to laze and shirk!'

ZECHARIAH speaks of the Christ Who came, first to suffer and then to reign.

And MALACHI speaks of the rising sun, describing Messiah, the Coming One.

Then MATTHEW shows us scene after scene, the King of the Jews is coming to reign.

In MARK the perfect Servant is sent, who did God's will wherever He went.

In LUKE's account we may reverently scan, the tender heart of the Son of Man.

While JOHN sets forth with every sign, that Christ is the Son of God Divine.

In ACTS is first published to Jew and to Greek the way of salvation, not far to seek.

In ROMANS Paul argues that faith in God's grace will save all who trust, from eternal disgrace.

1 CORINTHIANS shows us man's wisdom is nought, and the power of God must be earnestly sought.

2 CORINTHIANS teaches to love and forgive for those who repent and receive Christ, may live.

GALATIANS proclaims the glad news that we're free, from love, not from fear, our obedience should be.

In EPHESIANS we're warned there's a fight to be fought, and to take every bit of the armour we ought.

While PHILIPPIANS tells how Christ came from above, and suffered to bring joy, hope, peace and love.

COLOSSIANS calls us to walk in the light, now Satan's dark kingdom is broken in might.

While 1 THESSALONIANS says, 'Do not grieve, your dear ones with Jesus you safely

can leave'

And 2 THESSALONIANS says He'll return, his own to reward, and the wicked to spurn.

1 TIMOTHY prophecies difficult days, and shows how the Church should be ruled to God's praise.

While in TIMOTHY 2 Paul warns his young friend, he'll need to be strong and stand firm to the end.

In TITUS each character wherever he stays, must live to please Jesus and show forth His praise.

PHILEMON's the tale of a runaway slave, but love and forgiveness his wronged master gave.

And HEBREWS is full of the praise of God's Son. He's better than all things and everyone.

In JAMES we are taught how to live and to pray, 'Take care not to quarrel and mind what you say'

1 PETER tells of the infinite cost, of the work Jesus finished to rescue the lost.

While PETER's next letter says, 'Do grow in grace, make good with your time till you see Jesus' face'

In JOHN's first epistle he tells us to love, for in this way our heavenly birth we can prove.

And JOHN's second letter says, 'Just carry on, and keep on obeying till heaven is won' JOHN writes one more letter to say that he's glad, when the Church obeys the commands that they've had.

And JUDE makes quite clear that Old Testament seers, foresaw Christ's great Kingdom through all those long years.

While great REVELATION just shines as the sun, with glory on glory of God's only Son.

*THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE by Phyllis Hunt,
C.S.S.M. 1955*

9 Meaningful Ways to Connect with God

I came across this article this week and I thought it was really, really good. So I thought I would share it with you in our final issue of The Lighthouse. Which one are you??? Enjoy!

Did you know that there are many ways that people connect with God?

As Christians, there isn't a one-size-fits-all way to draw near to God. Just like God has created us with different personalities, we also have different spiritual temperaments. Have you ever thought about that or discovered what yours is?

How do you connect with God? How freeing it is to know that God invites us to know and experience Him in such varying and personal ways!

1. Naturalists: Loving God out of Doors

Naturalists feel closest to God when they're surrounded by God's creation. The mountains, the forests, or the water awakens something in them that nothing else does. Naturalists often learn their best lessons in the out-of-doors. In particular, being outdoors helps them visualize scriptural truths, see God more clearly, and learn to rest.

2. Sensates: Loving God with the Senses

Sensates are awed by the presence of beauty and feel closest to God when they can see, smell, hear, or almost even taste His majesty. Where naturalists are drawn to awe, beauty, and splendour outdoors, sensates are drawn to expressions of awe and beauty. For example, things like incense, elaborate architecture, classical music, and formal language move their heart deeply.



3. Traditionalists: Loving God through Ritual and Symbol

Traditionalists have a need for ritual and structure in their worship. Corporate worship, including rituals, symbols, sacraments, and sacrifice are essential in their life of faith. In practice, this might look like following a personal rule (or habit) of prayer, following and celebrating the liturgical calendar, using symbols as reminders of faith, and engaging in regular, specific personal sacrifice. While other spiritual temperaments might see these as lifeless rituals, the traditionalist finds these practices to be life-altering experiences.

4. Ascetics: Loving God in Solitude and Simplicity

Ascetics gravitate toward solitude, austerity, simplicity, and deep commitment. They find that discipline (for the sake of drawing near to God), severity, and solitude awaken their souls to the presence of God, and they feel closest to God when they're alone with nothing to distract them from focusing on God's presence. Ascetics' self-denial doesn't stem from being a martyr or punishing oneself, but rather as a means or way to love God more.

5. Activists: Loving God through Confrontation

The Activists feel closest to God when they are standing against injustice. In fact, many activists define worship as standing against evil and calling sinners to repentance. As they face injustice, they feel like they are working in cooperation and partnership with God. Activists readily engage in confrontation and challenge for the sake of truth, justice, and what they believe to be right.

6. Caregivers: Loving God by Loving Others

Caregivers love God and feel most connected to Him when loving and serving others. They are especially drawn to the poor, the needy, and the sick and are usually the first ones to bring a meal, give a ride, or volunteer to help in other ways. Caregivers are doers, jumping in to meet needs. They don't simply talk or sing about their love for God, they demonstrate it every day.

7. Enthusiasts: Loving God with Mystery and Celebration

Enthusiasts tend to be the cheerleaders of the faith. You'll find enthusiasts shouting amen, dancing in the aisles, and worshipping God with joyful celebration. They experience God's power and presence best when their hearts are moved and they feel His presence.

8. Contemplatives: Loving God through Adoration

Contemplatives adore God. They set their gaze on Him and seek to be present in His presence. Contemplatives feel closest to God when their emotions are awakened and they sense God touching their heart and speaking words of love and affection to them. While they may serve God and do things on His behalf, their focus is on seeking to love God with pure and deep love. Contemplatives would rather be alone with God than sitting through a formal liturgy or taking a walk outside.

9. Intellectuals: Loving God with the Mind

Intellectuals live in the world of concepts and ideas. They need to know what they believe, and they push churches to define and maintain proper doctrine. You're likely to find them studying (or debating) doctrine and theology. Intellectuals feel closest to God when they learn something new about Him that they didn't understand before or when given time to study God's Word or other theological books.

What a gift it is to learn from one another as we worship and experience God in unique ways, and what an opportunity we have with our kids to invite them into experiencing God in various ways!! I pray that better understanding these 9 meaningful ways to connect with God will help breathe life into your relationship with the Lord!

Erika Dawson (FaithfulMoms.org)

Lighthouse Lingo Wordsearch

Well, here we are...the final edition of *The Lighthouse* and my final wordsearch. I will of course create some more for *The Messenger* – which will commence in the Autumn. I have enjoyed compiling them all with their various themes. Hope you enjoy this one. Contained in the grid are hidden words, phrases and titles that have been part of *The Lighthouse* vocabulary since March 2020. Please note: punctuation such as apostrophes and hyphens are not included in the grid! That would make it too easy! There is also a mystery word...clue: a synonym of Lighthouse! Enjoy!

O	L	E	R	W	O	R	D	S	E	A	R	C	H	F	G	B	H	J	K	O	S	W
D	I	K	H	E	F	G	E	N	J	O	L	A	C	O	L	P	O	H	S	P	O	P
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A	H	D	E	R	B	O	O	K	I	N	G	I	N	G	R	T	O	A	I	N	D	S
Q	T	H	A	N	K	Y	O	U	E	E	N	U	S	F	M	F	Y	I	O	I	C	P
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N	E	G	E	R	G	C	D	H	R	Y	H	L	R	V	T	R	R	J	G	R	F	I
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F	T	T	P	Y	P	U	Z	Z	L	E	E	F	G	B	N	E	F	S	Y	N	R	U
Y	M	S	V	I	Y	S	C	K	P	Y	S	G	N	I	S	S	E	L	B	E	R	B
S	O	C	V	F	C	J	R	P	D	R	H	J	H	O	I	T	M	F	P	E	F	I
A	O	W	E	U	I	E	A	Q	H	O	I	T	F	B	H	F	I	Y	O	T	E	R
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H	R	E	P	O	E	T	S	G	O	S	P	E	L	R	I	U	G	F	T	Y	P	S
U	W	E	H	N	S	D	N	O	C	A	E	B	M	O	C	N	O	M	R	E	S	I
C	H	U	R	C	H	M	E	E	T	I	N	G	L	K	Y	T	U	I	Y	F	R	D

Lighthouse	edition	opening church	re-starting Church
contact us	puzzle	Zoom	Time for a Laugh
issue	wordsearch	blessings	continuing Church
think	lockdown	Poet's Gospel	Favourite Five
shop local	thank you	challenges	distribution
booking in	Church meeting	appeals	quiz
review	easy fundraising	sermon. com	recipe
prayer	poetry	Neil!	contribution

Blueberry, almond and lemon loaf

A delicious moist loaf cake I made a few weeks ago. Keeps well in an airtight container and can be enjoyed as a dessert with crème fraiche.



You will need:

150g butter/vegetable spread suitable of cooking
190g caster sugar
2 lemons – to create 2 tsp zest and 2 tsp juice
1 tsp vanilla extract
3 large eggs Beaton
90g self-rising flour - sifted
110g ground almonds
¼ tsp salt
200g of fresh blueberries

**** Grease and line a large loaf tin ** Preheat oven to 180 degrees. ****

Method

- In a large mixing bowl, use an electric whisk to mix the butter, sugar, zest, rind and vanilla essence together until well combined and reasonably fluffy.
- Gently add the beaten eggs a little at a time until well combined.
- Fold in the flour, salt and ground almonds.
- Finally stir in 150g blueberries.
- Tip the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in the centre of the oven for 15 minutes.
- Gently scatter the remaining 50g of blueberries onto the top of the cake and bake for a further 15 minutes.
- After this time, you will need to bake the cake for a further 25 – 30 minutes, covering with foil if necessary to avoid burning. The cake should be well risen and when inserted, a skewer comes out clean of mixture.
- Allow to cool in the tin before turning out onto a wire cooling rack.

Enjoy!

Cathryn Clarke

Church - New Guidelines

JUST A QUICK REMINDER. THE BULLET POINTS!

- If you are feeling unwell you MUST not come to Church.
- You are free to come along any Sunday without the need to book in.
- Please respect the personal space of all.
- Listen to the advice of the welcome steward at Church.
- Please take your seat and stay in your seat.
- The one way system is still be in use.
- Please wear a mask as we are now singing in Church.



Thank you for your help in adhering to these principles.

Flower Rota

At the beginning of the year, in a spirit of optimism, I prepared a flower rota for 2021. It now seems a good idea that we should start to use this from September. A copy will be displayed on the notice board in the lounge once it is in use again, and the Storyboard will be up and running so we shall be able to have a weekly reminder too. I used your names as they appeared on the previous rota, but these can easily be amended if not convenient for you.

Meanwhile I am sure you would like to join me in thanking Chris who has provided flowers from home every week since the church re-opened. It has been really lovely to come in and see the flowers there, and we very much appreciate it.

And finally....

I should like to thank the editor of *The Lighthouse* and all the contributors and deliverers for providing such stimulating and interesting reading matter over the months.

Janet

Thank You

I would just like to say a big thank you for *The Lighthouse*. It has been a real treat through the last 18 months. I've enjoyed all the articles and comments, the recipes, the quizzes, puzzles and the jokes. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

My biggest thank you goes to Neil for all his editorials. His observations each week combined with a message of hope and a bible reference set me up for the



next week.

I have an added bonus with my copy of *The Lighthouse*, my sister and her husband. They knock on the door every Friday and we catch up with family and put the world to rights. We started off on the doorstep, then progressed as we were allowed to the garden, then into the house, back to the doorstep and the garden, now the house. Following all the regulations has been confusing. We also get little treats of homemade jams, pickles, and produce from their garden. We have been very lucky.

When we progressed to the garden and house, I started to try out my baking - so our visitors have had to try my successes and my disasters.

Thanks again to the person or persons for a great idea in our times of trouble. *The Lighthouse* has certainly brought light into our lives.

Val Giles

Take Five...

A number of years ago I regularly subscribed to the BBC Good Food magazine and enjoyed the 'Take Five' ingredients to create delicious recipes both savoury and sweet.

When we return to the quarterly *Messenger* in the Autumn I would like to encourage contributions of recipes which use just five ingredients. These could be ways to use seasonal fruits and vegetables (thinking of you gardeners out there!)

or five basic store cupboard ingredients which can be used to create a simple but nutritious and an economical meal. I'll get the 'Take Five' recipe challenge going and see what inspired recipes follow!

Cathryn Clarke



From our Postbox...

Dear Lighthouse,

May your light continue to shine and give us the encouragement to continue to sparkle and bring a little light to those who are not so fortunate.

A big thank you is due to the Editor and the loyal deliverer's of *The Lighthouse* on a weekly basis.

The articles, quizzes and recipes have all been good for the mind, soul and stomach!

Thank you,

Maggie

7 of the funniest things kids said to their parents

It's a well-known truth that kids are the most fabulous little philosophers, but as often happens with great minded people, they get a little misunderstood.

Me: Did you brush your hair?

7-year-old: Yes.

Me: It doesn't look like it.

7: I've lived a lot since then.



4-year-old: Can we get a kitten?

Me: I'm allergic. We can't be in the same house.

4: You could sleep outside.

11-year-old: *playing with her sisters* We're pretending our rooms are apartments and we're neighbours.

Me: I'm just glad you're getting along.

11: We're neighbours who don't like each other.

Me: Someday you'll have feelings for boys.

6-year-old: I already have feelings for them.

Me: Really?

6: They make me mad.

Me: We're going out to get a birthday present for your friend.

5-year-old: Can we get one for me, too?

Me: Is it your birthday?

5: It will be someday.

Me: Are you done cleaning your room?

11-year-old: Almost.

Me: You're almost done?

11: I've almost started.

9-year-old: You don't know how hard it is to be a kid.

Me: I was a kid.

9: I mean now, not back in history.



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