

# Sanctuary First

A PLACE TO BE

## Remembering God's Faithfulness - in times of trouble

November 2018 (28 October - 1 December)

For the next five weeks during the Season of Remembrance we will invite our writers to help us reflect on how we can prepare ourselves to deal with the days of trouble when they come in our lives. The theme brings to our remembrance the fragility of our world and that nothing lasts for ever. God is renewing and reconciling his creation into a new and lasting vision of hope and wholeness.

*Each week of the theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and thought triggers.*

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
28 October	The Faithfulness of God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Job 42: 1-6</li> <li>2. Psalm 34: 1-8</li> <li>3. Jeremiah 31: 7-9</li> <li>4. Psalm 126</li> <li>5. Hebrews 7: 23-28</li> <li>6. Mark 10: 46-52</li> <li>7. Luke 10: 25-37</li> </ol>	<p>In week one, the last chapter of the Book of Job in the Hebrew scriptures sets the tone for all our theological thinking regarding suffering and trouble. During this week our seven reflections and prayers will encourage us to believe in the faithfulness of God.</p> <p>We will consider passages from the Psalms and Jeremiah as well as a story of healing from the Gospel highlighting the healing and compassion God brings to us in our days of trouble. The key message is restoration is part of God's healing plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. O God, You can do anything and everything</li> <li>2. I will praise God even in the day of troubles</li> <li>3. Good times are coming</li> <li>4. Do it all over again God!</li> <li>5. Jesus "Simply the best, better than all the rest!"</li> <li>6. Jesus, I want to see - I want to know!</li> <li>7. It's not enough to know - you must live it!</li> </ol>

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
04 November	Remembering Loyalty and Love	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ruth 1: 1-18</li> <li>2. Psalm 146</li> <li>3. Deuteronomy 6: 1-9</li> <li>4. Psalm 119: 1-8</li> <li>5. Hebrews 9: 11-14</li> <li>6. Mark 12: 28-34</li> <li>7. Mark 11: 20-25</li> </ol>	<p>For the next two weeks the Story of Ruth sets the scene each Sunday, inviting us to think on the different attributes of grace and compassion God brings into our lives. The importance of remembering loyalty and love in all our relationships even in the most troublesome of days is the theme which dominates the scripture readings this week.</p> <p>The writer will write seven reflections and prayers on these passages highlighting where possible the consolation of loyalty and love we receive from family and friends by God's grace. Above all we see God's heart for the widows and orphans.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where you go, I go.</li> <li>2. Don't pin your hopes on politics.</li> <li>3. Remember, don't forget God did it!</li> <li>4. Stay the course, that's blessing enough!</li> <li>5. You're clean and acceptable - trust me!</li> <li>6. Love others as yourself.</li> <li>7. Ask, pray, believe, forgive, receive.</li> </ol>
11 November	Protection and Redemption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17</li> <li>2. Psalm 127</li> <li>3. 1 Kings 17: 8-16</li> <li>4. Psalm 94</li> <li>5. Hebrews 9: 24-28</li> <li>6. Mark 12: 38-44</li> <li>7. Mark 12: 1-12</li> </ol>	<p>We continue to start the week looking at the Book of Ruth with a story of protection and redemption. This is an appropriate theme for Remembrance Sunday. This theme can be traced through all the readings for this week. Highlighting again the overall theme for the season of Remembrance: God's faithfulness and promises in times of trouble.</p> <p>The passages emphasise God's protection on the poor and the vulnerable. This week we are reminded of those who have given their lives in order to do this very thing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See God is faithful - He didn't leave you all alone!</li> <li>2. Build using God's plans.</li> <li>3. Don't despise the generosity of the poor.</li> <li>4. Do you think God doesn't care? You're so wrong!</li> <li>5. The real thing - once and for all!</li> <li>6. It's not the amount you give - it's what you have left!</li> <li>7. When God gave everything he had.</li> </ol>

Date	Subtheme	Readings	Notes
18 November	Faith and Expectation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 Samuel 1: 4-20</li> <li>2. 1 Samuel 2: 1-10</li> <li>3. Daniel 12: 1-3</li> <li>4. Psalm 16</li> <li>5. Hebrews 10: 11-14</li> <li>6. Hebrews 10: 19-25</li> <li>7. John 3: 31-36</li> </ol>	<p><b>Our fourth week of reflections leads us into an Advent theme. The group of readings put together open our minds to think beyond what we know and have experienced in our short life spans. They point to a day of consummation. A time when God will sort out the suffering and the injustices within our world. “Faith and Expectation” It opens with a sad story from the Book of Samuel.</b></p> <p>The story highlights the faith and expectation of a woman longing to have a child. The week ends with a prophecy from Jesus that the time will come when there will be earthquakes and famines in our world but these will be the birth pangs of his Kingdom of peace being born.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How long - Just keep asking.</li> <li>2. Hannah’s Song of Praise which is remembered by Mary, mother of Jesus (see Luke 1: 46-55)</li> <li>3. Remember this - God rights wrongs.</li> <li>4. O God You’ve set me up for life.</li> <li>5. Can You believe it? He’s restored you to perfection.</li> <li>6. Keep in touch regularly. The day is fast approaching.</li> <li>7. It’s time to recognise who Jesus really is!</li> </ol>
25 November	Longing and Anticipation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2 Samuel 23: 1-7</li> <li>2. Psalm 132: 1-12</li> <li>3. Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14</li> <li>4. Psalm 93</li> <li>5. Revelation 1: 4b-8</li> <li>6. John 18: 33-37</li> <li>7. Luke 21: 20- 28</li> </ol>	<p><b>Our Fifth Week anticipates the First Week of Advent. Advent means ‘the coming’. In the group of scripture texts this week we have Messianic references galore. God will redeems his world and bring comfort to those who are oppressed. His coming is not to be feared but to be longed for and anticipated.</b></p> <p>The first reading refers to King David at the end of his life. David believes that God has blessed his household in a very special way. The Messiah to come would be from the line of David. Psalm 132 confirms this way of thinking. In the Daniel reading we have an amazing picture of the God who will judge wisely and bring all things under his control. This Daniel vision once points to a Heavenly King to come. In the Revelation vision Jesus is identified as the one of whom Daniel spoke, Then in John’s Gospel Jesus informs Pilate of his Kingdom. How does the prospect of redemption affect our day to day life?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The God who started something good will continue it.</li> <li>2. Lord come home and stay with us for good.</li> <li>3. An insight into the ensuing Kingdom.</li> <li>4. Your Kingdom is definitely coming.</li> <li>5. Jesus, the ruler of the Kings of the Earth.</li> <li>6. The King is Rejected.</li> <li>7. Redemption is close at hand. What does it mean to live your everyday life with the prospect of redemption?</li> </ol>