




## Live your faith 27 Sept – 3 Oct 2020

Read, pray, reflect and live your faith this week



 This week's Bible readings Ezekiel 18.1-4,25-32 • Psalm 25.1-9 • Philippians 2.1-13 • Matthew 21.23-32

## Make my joy complete

### Notes on the Bible readings

- Philippi, originally a Greek city, was considered to be a miniature Rome. The Romans knew how to run the empire and keep people in order. Slavery was taken for granted and woven throughout Roman society. Jesus' death by crucifixion was the ultimate slave's death; by asking the people of Philippi to be like Christ, Paul is asking them to embrace this existence, the lowest in the Roman Empire.

- We can assume that people in Philippi would have heard of the crucifixion story, which must have been brought in via trade routes. Status was everything in their world, but this story and Paul's message about it shows that this kind of status doesn't mean anything to God.

- In a world obsessed with self-interest and self-image, putting aside your own interests for the interests of others is quite a challenge, and one that we, as followers of Jesus, need to wrestle with. What does this look like in practice? How can we balance this with the need for self-care?

### A random act of kindness

Search the internet for and watch '20 random acts of kindness'. Think of a random act of kindness that you could do. Evaluate its costs to you (financial, time, etc.) – and make the necessary plans to do it.

FREE [worship at home](#) resources, including up-to-the-minute reflection on this week's Bible reading, available at: [www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)

### Questions for reflection

- ▶ Where do you see yourself in this image?
- ▶ When do you find joy in helping others?
- ▶ If the keyhole represents 'key support', what does that look like in your community?



### A prayer for others

*O God, so often we want to pray for others but don't know how. We can't remember names or numbers, or other issues weigh heavily on our hearts. Thank goodness, God, that you know what we mean when we pray. So, we bring in this moment, those names and faces, images and desires for others that pop in and out of our minds throughout the day...*  
*the old lady at the bus stop...*  
*the young mum at the checkout...*  
*the chap up the road who's calling for his dog...*  
*the teachers struggling with their class...*  
*a young family who can't make ends meet...*  
*those without work, who can't find new jobs...*  
*those with mental health issues and seeking help...*  
*those who know they need help for whatever reason, but are too ashamed to ask, or are ignored...*

*O God, for all these people and countless others, we offer our prayers. We know you do not need reminding, but you do need willing workers – even us – to help them know your love and have their needs met. Hear our ramblings, O God. Amen.*

### A personal prayer

*I simply pray that you, Lord God, will help me show your love to those around me.  
Amen.*

### Live your faith

Think of someone you don't normally engage with – or someone who represents a group or ideology that that you dislike – and do something specific and positive for that person.



Dear Friends,

We have some good news to share this week in that we have been able to secure a new venue to hold public worship. From Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October we will be meeting at Ronkswood Community Centre each Sunday. The centre will be available for us from 9.30 – 11.30 each week. We are limited to having 15 people in attendance at one time, so we may have to have two staggered services for two groups of people – the details will be worked out over the coming week or so. We are still unable to sing at services, so everything will be said, and we will use the projector to display the liturgy. There will of course be restrictions and we will advise you shortly about these. Most importantly face masks will have to be worn by those attending worship. Of course, all this depends on how things progress over the next few weeks with the spread of the virus. As I write this, we are waiting for the government to make an announcement today. We will keep you posted. Please give thanks for this in your prayers, and for the generosity of John and Sue at The Punchbowl who have been so wonderful to us. Please also pray for those who are making decisions about how to deal with the spread of this infection.

Stay safe, blessings Rob.

***Please pray for all of this year's ordination candidates who will be ordained this weekend especially our friends Claire Billington and Lindsey Coulthard***

God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
 through your Son you have called us into the fellowship  
 of your universal Church:  
 hear our prayer for your faithful people  
 that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of  
 your love, and give to your servants now to be ordained  
 the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
 who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.



***Pray for those in need...***Sally, Katie-Louise, Pam, Sue, Bryn, Evelyn, Shane, Pat, Heather, Dorothy Lily, Cathy and Joyce. ***Please remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones at this time...we remember Cathy...***

Daily Readings for week commencing 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020		
<b>Monday</b>	1 Kings 12: 25-13:10	Acts 19:8-20
<b>Tuesday</b>	Daniel 12: 1-4	Acts 12: 1-11 <i>Michael and all angels</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 Kings 17	Acts 20: 1-16
<b>Thursday</b>	1 Kings 18: 1-20	Acts 20: 17-end
<b>Friday</b>	1 Kings 18: 21-end	Acts 21: 1-16
<b>Saturday</b>	1 Kings 19	Acts 21: 17-36