



Prayers & Readings for this week

- ▶ We continue to remember *Jean and Susan* Carney giving thanks for the many years of faithful service that Albert gave to us here at Brooklands
- ▶ We pray for the Rev. *Mick Kane* who preached last week, for his work as chaplain at nearby NTC, also remembering his wife *Debbie* and son *Mikey*
- ▶ We were sorry to hear that *Dorothy Lawson* who attended our Diner for a number of years passed away from covid-19 last Sunday aged 98; we thank the Lord for this godly lady and pray for her family
- ▶ We pray for our Youth, and Father's Day, services soon coming up
- ▶ We remember Katie & Scott and their wedding plans

Monday	Reading John 12:1–26 Pray for Karina Philips and family
Tuesday	Reading John 12:27–50 Pray for Jean & David Hall
Wednesday	Reading John 13:1–30 Pray for Lucy Frost
Thursday	Reading John 13:31–14:14 Pray for Suzanne Gallier
Friday	Reading John 14:15–15:17 Pray for Margaret Gallagher
Saturday	Reading: Catch up Pray for Bill & Lorraine Graham
Sunday	Reading John 15:18–16:15 Pray for Will Graham

This coming Friday at noon is the funeral of Albert Carney at the Southport Crematorium. Albert and Jean were highly active members of our church for almost 15 years before, just over a year ago, moving to Southport. Albert was a close friend to so many people and just loved talking to, and getting to know people. Although having had to cope with numerous physical setbacks he nevertheless gave one-hundred-percent, and was *always* there to help, support and encourage everyone in our church and community. Wherever you found Albert, Jean was there too! We collectively give thanks to the Lord for the time Albert and Jean were in our fellowship, and are so grateful that our paths crossed. I have often thought back to amazing people I have known in the years since becoming a Christian at the age of twenty-one. Some were very gifted, many were very ordinary, and I have discovered that it was not so much the talents of people that mattered as much as the fire that burned within them to serve the Lord and those around them. It is the smile that I remember, the joy of life and upbeat nature of expectation from their Lord and God. It was the fact that we shared something incredibly special – a knowledge and a faith in Christ that was *unshakable*. It has been a wonderful thing to be able to say with them, 'We know the Lord'.

In these present times of challenge and with *things being so different*, when we have not seen many of those we know for three months now, we still believe that **everything is in the Lord's hands. This is where our hope lies.**

In the Christian *calendar*, today is Trinity Sunday. We believe God has revealed himself as Father, Son & Holy Spirit, and we also believe that God is in our world and is active through those who trust in him. We become *His* hands and feet to a needy world. When we are feeling weak, *His* many wonderful angels are there to aid us and sustain us. There is a spiritual world out there that mere physical eyes cannot see. In a world where truth is often masked there is one unshakable truth worth telling - ***God Almighty both loves you and has a plan for you.***

Our Father in heaven has a big family - and Albert was part of that family. We will see him again in the Age to come. It is a Kingdom that Jesus both spoke of, and died to bring about. Be joyful therefore and be thankful and do something good today directed by that holy fire of God that burns deep within.

May God's Grace and Peace be with you.



Message: 'Resolute Stillness' Reading: Psalm 46

We celebrated Pentecost last week. Michael Kane reminded us how there was a period of time for God to 'Break In' so that the church could Break Out! We recognized the emphasis upon the believers *to be together in one place* and to wait and pray. How true it was for them (as Mick said last week) to wait and be still. My focus-verse, printed in bold, is from Psalm 46. Here it is: **"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."** (Psalm 46:10).

The Psalm begins with such a degree of assurance; **'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah'** (Psalm 46:1–3). Here is the image of an impenetrable fortress.

Then we come to verse 4: **'There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.'** This river is one of 'gladness'! The key thought of the passage is being kept in an impregnable fortress where God reigns supreme in the very middle of utter chaos! He is the Almighty after all. We recall that occasion when, fast asleep in the stern of a boat his disciples awaken Jesus in the middle of a raging storm. When asked by his disciples if he 'did not care', Jesus commanded the storm to stop! The forces of nature obey immediately. One wonders *which unseen storms* – many that frighten people today – come under his eternal authority. Storms that cannot disturb *His* peace, but ours maybe!

This is part of what I want you to see this morning; to see in this verse an incredible invitation from the Lord Almighty **to Stop**, 'Be Still and Know... that **He is God**' – *period* – right in the middle of the chaos. Here are a couple of possibilities when you see it this way...

1) In your Ceasing, Trust!

Sometimes in life, in ministry, in troubled times you must **Stop** and **Trust**. It is harder for some than for others. While the Christian faith is very much about doing something to show our faith, this verse requires something different; it's about stopping what you are doing *completely* – and holding on to that

resolute truth – **'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble'**.

The difference may well be summed up this way. You are about to come under an onslaught from your enemy. You have built a fortress big, and strong. The walls are metres wide and tall. You are feeling pretty safe and secure, but *are you?*

The second Fortress is God, not the work of your hands and ingenuity. We may not be able to see *this* fortress, but you believe that God is indeed – **God!** You have read the declaration in the psalms, *'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble'*

I wanted to say this morning that when we stop what we are *doing*, and we **trust** what **God** is *doing*, I believe the congregation of Heaven stands and gives glory to the Lord Almighty too. **This is the heart of this Psalm**. The Psalmist lived to tell the story and he had every reason to praise the Lord. . . . Secondly...

2) In your Silence, Know!

Both Ceasing and Silence – to the evangelical Christian are exceedingly difficult. The **cessation** of activity feels like we have let God down. The **silence** means we must stop talking and telling people what to do. In your Ceasing (***you allow God to work***), and in your Silence (***you allow God to speak***); it is then, truly that we come to **Know**; as the Lord says here, **'That I AM God!'**

There is that lovely story, following Israel's liberty from slavery and their long walk through the wilderness, where God leads them to the borders of the Promised Land. Their first obstacle had **real fortifications** – **Jericho**; the earliest continuously occupied city in the world, going back to 9,000 BC. I am sure that not a few of Israel's soldiers felt uneasy being asked to walk around the city walls **in silence** for **seven days!** When on the seventh day, and they'd walked around seven times, they were commanded to give a shout of victory to bring the walls down! Do not trust in walls, trust in the Lord!

Jesus began his ministry with **Silence, with Prayer & with Fasting** – and that for 40 days in the wilderness. Alongside these three spiritual disciplines, Jesus **engaged in a battle** ('not against flesh and blood' either); 'but against the **rulers**, against the **authorities**, against the **powers** of this dark world and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms.' When we get to verse 10; 'Be still, and know that I am God...' we encounter incredible lessons: Faith is like a Fortress; and Stillness in the Hand of God moves mountains! **'Be still and know that I am God'**. Blessings...