

November part 2

Creator God,
You made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.



everyday
faith

Hope in crisis

We have spent most of this year living in a worldwide pandemic. We have been witnessing a crisis globally, nationally, and locally. A crisis in strain on our NHS, a crisis in food support, a crisis in loneliness, and the many others that have been exposed from us living with this virus. No one has escaped the impacts of living through this crisis with us all encountering it in many ways. Pressure moments often reveal our instincts. Where do we turn? Who or what do we turn to? In the psalms we hear the cries of people in moments of complete and utter despair, yet, in all of them there is hope in the moment. In this session we will thinking about, can there be hope in crisis? If so, how is this hope lived out in our everyday.

God knows us completely

Psalm 139: 1-18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³ You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. ¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

What strikes you about this passage?

What questions do you have?

What does it tell you about God?

Where do you see yourself in this passage?

How does this passage encourage you in your everyday?



Think about the places you have been this past week, where have you known God's presence with you?

Where in your everyday do you see opportunities to be signs of hope?

This year, our 'normal' everyday patterns have been challenged. What are your hopes in the future for your everyday?

How might you be hope for others in your little part of the world?

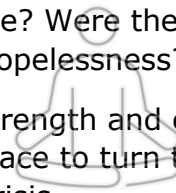


Stillness Take a moment to reflect on yourself and on all the things you have done over the past week.

Think about a moment of crisis. Where was there hope? Were there been moments of hopelessness?

Ask God for strength and comfort. Ask God for the grace to turn to God in all moments of crisis.

After a period of silent reflection, you may wish to share with the group or with somebody else.



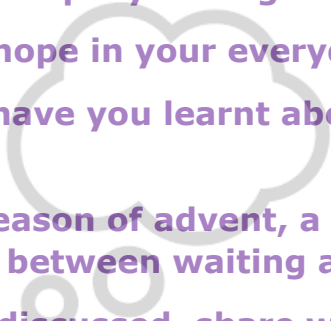
Can you define hope? As a group try and agree on 1-2 sentences for this?

How have you experienced hope in your everyday during the Covid crisis?

Because of the crisis, what have you learnt about God that you didn't know before?

We are about to enter the season of advent, a time of waiting. How do you understand the relationship between waiting and hope?

In light of all that has been discussed, share with the group your hopes in crisis for the weeks and months ahead in your everyday faith?



Craft

Choose a form of media to show where you have experienced God's presence. Here are some ideas.

Make something with fabric or paper paint or draw a place or scene knit, weave or cross stitch using colours that express your experience. Make a mosaic or collage or even create some music to recreate the atmosphere

Share your creations with us!



Lego

You will need:

Any Lego or Duplo you can find.

Create

After each story we will build anything we want about the story.

We might share our model if we want to.

During the week we can add to the model or use it to remind us of the story.



If you keep a journal or a diary write a letter to God, telling God all about your week. Give thanks for times of hope, ask God for strength in times of hopelessness.

Alternatively, write some notes on post it notes and post them around the house, whenever you see your notes give thanks to God.



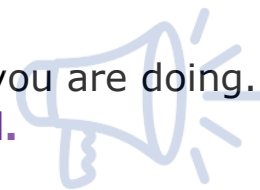
A prayer that God will be revealed in all we do.

Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
Amen.

Start each day looking for God in your everyday life.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen

Pause during the day. Be aware of what God in what you are doing.
God is good all the time. All the time God is good.



End the day by reviewing the day.

What are you grateful for? What has made you feel anxious? How do you feel about the day? Tell God anything that comes to mind? What do you need to be aware of, or let go of?

In peace we will lie down and sleep; for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus, for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning, so do we look for you, O Christ.

Time to Pray

Join us on Facebook at 9am for Prayer during the Day and at 8pm for Night Prayer Monday to Friday

Please share wider photos of your group or anything you make, stories you would like to share where you have encountered God in your everyday or feedback. You can send your contributions to revdgail@icloud.com

This worksheet has been put together using some of the material in, The Church of England, Everyday Faith resource. (2019: Church House Publishing)