

Cheltenham - Mentone Uniting Church

News Letter

Vol 2 No 30 17th October 2021



Our church Lectionary is currently following the book of Job, a book often overlooked and yet a book of much wisdom and spiritual healing for many. I thought this commentary "Ten Lessons from Job" from "Women Living Well Ministries" addresses many questions in our current COVID situation.

1 Bad things happen to good people

The book of Job opens in verse one by telling us that Job was a blameless, upright man who feared God and turned away from evil. Then, his life unravelled. Job's suffering did not come because he was bad but rather because of his unwavering faithfulness to God. (Job 1:8)

2 In the midst of suffering, we must never lose our hope in God

One of the greatest statements of faith in all of scripture is found right in the middle of Job chapter 13. Job says: "Though he slay me, I will hope in him." No one and nothing can steal your joy or your peace when your hope is in God. Never lose your hope in God!

3 Our friends may fail us in the midst of our misery but God never does

Job's friends put him on the defence. Job said of his three friends: "Miserable comforters are you all!" (16:2) Job proclaims where his deep strength flows from: (Job 19:25-27) One day – we will see with our own eyes our Redeemer! He is alive today and forevermore and because He lives – we can face tomorrow with victory!

4 Even in the midst of God's silence, His presence is with us

Job wrestled and wrestled with God's silence in the midst of his suffering. Over 25 times he asked the question "why?" and he continually asked for the opportunity to defend his case before God. Job had entered the fiery furnace of suffering. (Job 23:10-12)

5 Wisdom comes from fearing God and turning away from evil

Humility is key. Pride can interfere with us following the wise ways of the Lord. And when pride interferes it clouds our vision, and before we know it – we are on the wrong path towards evil. Job explains in Job 28:28:

6 God is with us in the midst of our storms

The Lord is our good shepherd and He never leaves our side. He walks with us through the valleys. He restores our soul when we are weary. He leads us to the path of righteousness when we have lost our way. He gives us courage when we are scared and he comforts us when we are hurting. Our God is the God of the storm.

7 God is in control

God is the creator of the universe. He is mighty and powerful. We can trust Him with our lives. We see in Job chapter one, that nothing came into the life of Job which did not first go through the hands of his loving God. Every page of scripture points to a sovereign God – from the creation account in Genesis to the return of Christ in Revelation, our God is in complete control.

8 Sometimes, in the midst of our suffering, we sin

God accepts a humble and repentant heart. In Job 42, we see Job surrender to God and repent. Job recognized that God is the creator and he is just his creation. (Job 42:6)

9 Sometimes we sin against our friends

Job's friends not only failed to be there for Job in a supportive, loving way but they gave poor advice based on their misunderstandings of God. The Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. (Job 42:7)

10 After repentance and forgiveness comes blessings

In Job 42, Job made a burnt offering for his friends and prayed for them as God commanded Him to do. God accepted Job's prayer for them and THEN Job's fortunes were restored WHEN he prayed for his friends! Isn't this interesting? Job forgave his friends BEFORE he knew how blessed he was about to become. It was Job's prayer that released blessings! (Job 42:12)

Final Conclusion

When we are feeling stressed and frustrated and wounded by this world may we step back and take a look at all of God's creation. Get outside under the big sky and remind yourself who your God is. Then, get into His word and learn more about God's love for you. Trust that if he can create and sustain the entire universe, surely He will take care of you.

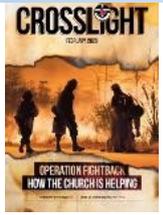




Bible Readings for October 17th Pentecost 21 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

Job 38:1-7,(34-41) Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c Hebrews 5:1-10 Markk 10:35-45

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au



Print copies of CROSSLIGHT usually available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church. Latest CROSSLIGHT now available from David Vine, 4 Jemma Ct. Cheltenham 9583 7373.

Prayers of the People

We pray especially for -

Margaret Bryan
Robert (Joan Wright's brother)
Pete, Bruce & Valda (friends of Jo-ann & David)
Anita and Rod
Barb Loosemore
Isobel Churchward
Gloria Sampson & Family

Stuart as he struggles with addiction
Janine and June Bartholomeusz (Jenny & Cec thank you for your prayers)
Audrey Fewster
Margaret's neighbour Joan
Grace Fairbank

Gemma and Teresa
Heather (daughter of close friend of Graeme & Joan)
Tina and her two teenage sons (also friends of Graeme & Joan)
Susan Bartell
Bronwyn
Olga's sister Karen



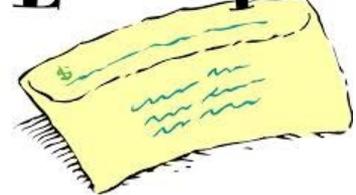
A reminder that for a number of reasons our present Planned Giving Envelope system will conclude at the end of October when this year's envelopes run out.

If you have been using this system please return any remaining envelopes to David Vine.

If you wish to continue with giving envelopes please let us know and we will arrange our own printing of envelopes for you.

Our thanks to those who have participated in the present scheme for many years.

Offering Envelopes



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230** **Passcode: 836844**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

The above link and meeting details apply for all our services until the **December 26th 2021**.



Videos on the Internet

NEW YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_lezegzNZi6nnQ
to view selected sermons and service preludes



Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462 (*BayCISS contact number 9555 9910*)
From BayCISS "Many thanks to all those who continue to drop off food parcels".

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.

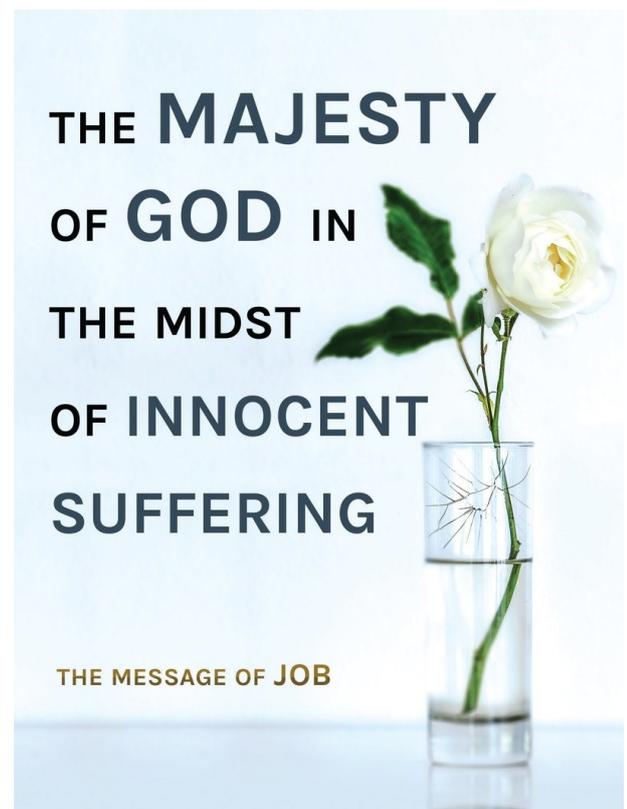


Even in the midst of suffering .. (Job's lesson)



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Judge God by the Knowledge of His Character and not His Character by His dealings.



Your Weekly Offering

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: You may do this by putting your pledge in the envelopes and bring them to church.

Direct Debit: (include your envelope number if applicable)

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council", BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206