

A song to sing or to read: Pass It On

It only takes a spark to get a fire going
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You spread your love to everyone
You want to pass it on.



What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming
That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring
You want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found
You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound
I'll shout it from the mountain tops
I want the world to know
The Lord of love has come to me
I want to pass it on

Words and Music Kurt Kaiser 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc. (Admin. by SHOUT! Music Publishing Australia)
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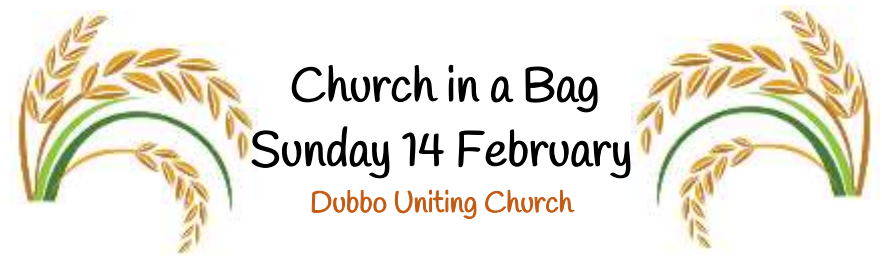
Closing Prayer

Amazing God, we are so thankful that you have come and changed not only the world, but us. Give us the courage to change what we can, wherever we are, with whatever we have. Give us acceptance when changes cannot or should not be made. Give us wisdom so that we know the difference. We ask for a share of your Spirit so that we want to see, and change, injustice; to leave no-one behind, and to love all people. **Amen**

With thanks to Carolyn Sharp for preparing today's reflection



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A Gathering

Our God is coming and will not keep quiet. Hallelujah!
God says, "My followers, gather around me.
Come, my worshipers, who made an agreement with me".

(From Psalm 50)

The invitation to be part of the Kingdom of God is here.
We do not need to understand it all.
We do not have to know it all.
We do not have to have it all together.
We just need to come...

A Prayer

O God, who sees all, knows all, knows us.
We ask that you would be with us as we share your story with others.
Give us the courage to be Christ to our neighbours, especially those we would rather not associate with.
Help us to embrace and welcome change rather than grumble when we have to get out of our comfort zone.
Encourage us when we feel inadequate and not prepared to face the challenges before us.
Help us to trust that you will not lead us astray and we are safe wherever you lead us.
Help us to have faith like a mustard seed – capable of growing and providing sanctuary to others. May we put our hand in yours and become a Child of God. Amen



Readings: 2 Kings 2: 1-12
Mark 9: 2-9

Reflection

Do you like change? Sometimes the answer is yes (think a new car) and sometimes the answer is no (think about learning what all the new buttons and gizmos in the new car do).

So often for the same event we can find pluses and minuses. Think about the year just gone and all the changes that were thrust upon us. All were necessary to keep us safe but were not often appreciated. Yet in all the changes, connection with others has helped us to find our way. It is always good to talk things through with someone else and clarify these changes in our minds.

And while so much of what COVID-19 has brought has been hard to deal with, we have learnt to appreciate life and the “little” things we took for granted. Things like visiting friends, going out for a meal and for some, even going outside. For some, going to work was never pleasant and yet not going to work has proved even worse. And being able to attend worship seems better than ever.



In our Old Testament reading today Elisha is facing a life changing event: his mentor, Elijah, will be leaving at an unknown time and Elisha will be on his own. When the local prophets try to engage with Elisha, he is reluctant to talk. Maybe knowing that time is limited he has thought about his priorities and decided he does not want to waste a minute of the precious time he has left with Elijah. After 2020 I know I can understand that concept.

Elijah offers him the easy out. Elisha could have struck out on his own, making changes to the way Elijah worked to suit himself. Yet he chose

to stay till the end. Was it fear of being left on his own or was he trying to get as much from the experience as he could?

When we are faced with the prospect of having to live a new way what is our response? Do we hang on till the bitter end or face our fears and grasp new possibilities?

The Gospel tells the story of Jesus' transfiguration and the disciples' fearful reaction. I judge the disciples less harshly this year having lived through all the changes we experienced last year and the anxiety that went with it. It was change upon change, with Jesus glowing, then people appearing who were long gone, then a voice from the cloud and then back to normal: only it was a new normal. The disciples cannot unsee what they saw, any more than we can un-experience COVID-19.

At least we can talk about our “new normal”. It must have been so overwhelming and yet Jesus tells them they cannot talk about it with anyone - yet. Even if it was not face to face, talking with other people about our COVID-19 experiences is very reassuring.

However, I can understand Jesus' request not to talk yet. What we understood in February 2020 about COVID-19 was partial – we know so much more now. What the disciples understood straight after the transfiguration was partial. After the resurrection it would make so much more sense and that was the time to tell others about it: when they could put it into context in the story.



Jesus was all about changing the things that needed changing; to not accept injustice just because it was difficult or uncomfortable to fight; to make sure no-one was left behind. How well do we tell the story, and how well do we walk the story to share Jesus' message?