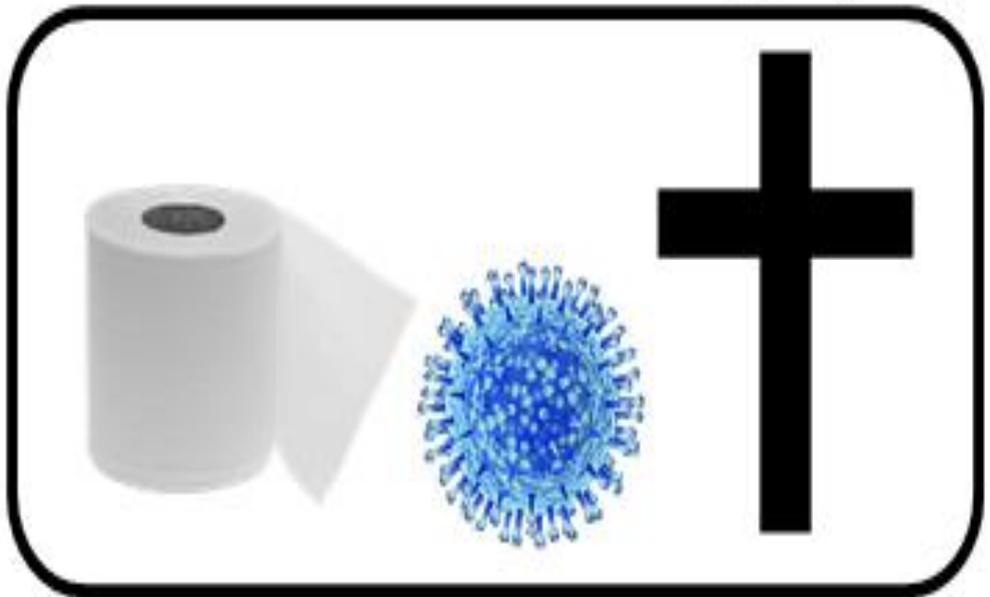


**The Salvation Army**  
**B**  **SCOMBE**  
Palmerston Road  
[www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk](http://www.boscombesalvationarmy.org.uk)

**Sunday 22 March 2020**

**Morning Worship (recorded) led by  
Majors David and Jane Alton**

**Matthew 6:25-34**



**COVID 19 and Christ**

**To KNOW Christ ~ To LIVE Christ ~ To SHARE Christ**

# **BOSCOMBE CORPS NEWS**

## **Coronavirus Update from Majors David and Jane Alton**

Dear Friends,

In line with Government guidelines and directives from Salvation Army Territorial HQ, all public meetings, including Sunday worship, are cancelled with immediate effect. We are very sad to say that certain elements of this year's Easter Celebration are also cancelled. This includes the following:

Easter Alive, Movie Night, Maundy Thursday Reflection, Easter Saturday Celebration with Portsmouth Band and Songsters and Easter Sunday Open Air.

We are waiting to see how the situation develops before making any definite decisions about Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship. You will appreciate that this situation is unprecedented and we are seeking to follow government and SA guidelines in a responsible and informed manner.

Please keep a look out on the corps Facebook page and website as we will be sharing online ministry resources which you can use.

At this time, we would ask that we look after each other by keeping in contact in the many ways open to us. Thank you to so many who are already doing this. If you know of anyone who has a particular need that you cannot meet, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

BH1 is still operating a reduced service and are managing well despite having to cope with restrictions. We are grateful to both the staff and the volunteers who are working tirelessly to support all those vulnerable people in our community who need us at this difficult time. If anyone who is well and not at risk themselves could offer any help, please contact Ruth Mattingley.

We want you to know that we are still open for business and if there is anything we can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact us - either ourselves, Nigel or Joanne and we will just be at the other end of a telephone. We may not be meeting in church but we are still being church.

Hear these words from Romans 8: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons- neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Be assured of our love and prayers. May you know God's presence and peace at this time.

David & Jane

# BOSCOMBE CORPS NEWS (Continued)

## Promotion to Glory

It is our sad duty to inform you of the Promotion to Glory of Colonel Jean Gauntlett. Jean passed away on the evening of Tuesday 17 March. Please pray for Jean's immediate family and closest friends at this time of bereavement.

## A Prayer for Mothers

*By Heidi Busse*

All-loving God,  
we give you thanks and praise  
for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers,  
who give life and count toes  
and tend to our every need;  
May they be blessed with patience and tenderness  
to care for their families and themselves  
with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers  
who have nurtured and cared for us;  
May they continue to guide  
in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated  
from their children because of war,  
poverty or conflict  
*and at this time particularly due to the restriction caused by Coronavirus*  
May they feel the loving embrace of  
our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers  
but still love and shape us  
with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers  
who are no longer with us  
but who live forever in our memory  
and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

## PRAYER MATTERS

**Monday 23 March** – (NSB793) Please read Ephesians 6:18 and Romans 8:26 NLT. They speak of the power of praying 'in the Spirit'... of approaching the Throne of Grace in humble and dedicated intercession and supplication, entirely on God's terms - not ours! Such prayer with Divine help is praying in the Spirit. It's not a skill that can be 'acquired'; it is **a gift to be received; a life to be lived**. In these difficult times we simply say '*If we needed You, we need You now!... Come into our world, Lord Jesus, come*'. (IN)

**Tuesday 24 March** – (NSB406) Even amid the chaos, we can pray. Our SA Leaders urge us to pray.. to set our alarm clock or mobile every day at 12 noon... and pause to pray, joining a global prayer for an end to COVID-19 . Pray for a miracle. Do you believe in miracles? I certainly do!!

**Wednesday 25 March** – (NSB565) IHQ have said that worship as a congregation is not advisable at present, but we still have the great privilege and freedom to be able to worship Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, to place our trust in Him and call upon God in prayer... wherever we are, individually and corporately. (THQ)

**Thursday 26 March** – (NSB530) Pray for our Majors David and Jane facing added needs, to define safe ways to care and make connections in love and service; pray for those who are infected and suffering in isolation. **May God be their Peace.. and also our peace and hope, too.**

**Friday 27 March** – (NSB274) Food for thought? *May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or earning their rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options....*

**Saturday 28 March** – (NSB535) ....*May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no place to go. May we who are losing our 'margin' money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, Let us still find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.* (THQ)

**Sunday 29 March** – (NSB288) **LOVE..** Keeps on going! Never lets go! Never runs out or gives up, but does its best! *Our Faithful God, whose limitless love brought The Salvation Army into being, inspired its Founders and has kindled a fire in the hearts of Salvationists for many generations, ignite in us again today the love that only You can give. May Your unquenchable Love be our motive, mission, strength and our song.* Amen. (THQ)

# Worship and Word



**Sunday 22nd March 2020**

This act of worship has been prepared for use at home. Spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

## **Opening Prayer**

Father God, as I come before you in name of Jesus, open my eyes that I might truly see you as my shepherd, comforter and Lord.

I want to be with others in worship, but this is not possible. I know that I am joining with the community of faith in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for this time where I remember you are with me. Amen.

## **Hymn: Amazing Grace (SASB 453 T:57)**

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words*

- 1 Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound --  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 God's grace has taught my heart to fear,  
his grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
God's grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

5 And, when this heart and flesh shall fail  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil  
a life of joy and peace.

6 When we've been there ten thousand years  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we first begun.

John Newton (1725-1807)

### **Let us pray together.....**

Lord, I worship you today. Help me to see you in contours and colours of my life.

Open my eyes to what is possible when I see things through the eyes of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Forgive me what is passed, protect me from all that is to come and enable me through the Spirit's power.

Help me to enact the Territorial Commander's advice to PRAY, CLEAN, LISTEN, CARE and ACT as best I, given my circumstances. In Jesus' name Amen.

**Reading from the Old Testament:** Psalm 91

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 6:25-34

### **Something to consider**

Are you a fan of art? Do you have a favourite painting? When it comes to art I'm not entirely sure that I would know a Matisse from a Monet or a Renoir from a Rembrandt. The late art expert Sister Wendy Beckett had the ability to explain many of the technical aspects of how to understand and appreciate paintings.

The great Scottish preacher and professor Rev James Stewart said that, like a landscape painting, life has a foreground and background. In the foreground are the things that are right in front of us, things that we easily focus on and feel like are right on top of us. In the background of life are the invisible unseen spiritual realities that are behind us and beyond us.

The foreground and background are two parts of the same painting, interconnected relating to each other, making up the portrait of our lives and our world. Too often in life all we focus on is the foreground of our immediate problems and we lose sight of the unseen divine eternal background that puts everything into proper perspective.

Our foreground right now is the Coronavirus pandemic and all the affects that it is having on our society, economy, and day-to-day living. This is the foreground. But! We must remember, it's *only* the foreground!

There are divine spiritual realities and promises that put all of this into the right perspective. And this is what Jesus is showing us in our passage. He recognizes both the foreground and the background of life. He isn't dismissing our immediate concerns, but he wants us to see that it's not the whole picture. He wants us to see our needs in light of the background of God's presence and kingdom.

Jesus tells us **“Do not be anxious.”** and **“Seek first the kingdom of God.”**

Jesus says “therefore .....do not be anxious” three times in this passage the “therefore” points us to our God, who sees, hears, knows and cares. This is the background to our life—the presence and sovereign care of our heavenly Father.

In v32, Jesus says, the people who don't know God seek after wealth, and material possessions (toilet rolls and hand wash?). That's all they want and all they talk about, that's why they're anxious about it.

Our anxieties reveal our priorities. We get anxious about the things we put our hope in. That's why earlier in this chapter Jesus says where your treasure is your heart will be also. In other words, what you're hoping in, what you're investing in, that's what's going to have a vise grip on your heart.

Jesus calls the background into view and he says, ‘let me give you something else to seek; seek first the kingdom of God! This involves remembering the background reality of God's loving presence and all that goes with it and radically demonstrating the love of Christ in the here and now.

In this fragile and flawed world, as Christians, we are called to bear witness to the kingdom of Christ, to reach out in love and kindness. In the coming weeks and months, may the Lord lead us in how to do that in practical and helpful ways.

In the midst of foreground panics over toilet rolls, pasta, hand sanitizer, Boris' briefings and self-isolation, let's look to the background of God's love and grace. Let's live out the Kingdom of God, centred on the person of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit and expressed in love, where ever we may be.

### **Take a time to sit quietly**

A time of prayer

All seeing, all knowing God I call on you today. May your Spirit give your world a sense of calm and peace in these difficult times.

On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all Mums. We also remember all those who would have liked to have children but for whatever reason could not. We give thanks for the influence and witness of the women of the church through the centuries.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty:

For those people who are worried about leaving their home and those who cannot.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other.  
We pray for carers, doctors and nurses.

We continue to pray for those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend and act of worship today.

I especially want to pray for .....

Holy God, present with us now, guide me in all I do and say – that it might reflect your love for the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer:** *Our Father* .....

**Song: This is my Father's World** (SASB 66 T:167)

*Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim these words or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind.*

1 This is my Father's world,  
And to my listening ears  
All nature sings and round me rings  
The music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world,  
I rest me in the thought  
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
His hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world,  
The birds their carols raise,  
The morning light, the lily white,  
Declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world:  
He shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass, I hear him pass,  
He speaks to me everywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;  
O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
The battle is not done;  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
And earth and Heaven be one.  
Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858 – 1901)

**A prayer of blessing**

Lord, I commit myself to you today. At the end of this day, may I see you more clearly and love you more dearly, and follow you closer. **Amen.**

God bless you – Majors David and Jane

*Format and some content is adapted from a UK Methodist resource*