

Travelling Songs

Through Lent with the Psalms of Ascent

Week 5 Psalm 130 Waiting

'My soul waits for the Lord'

The two sessions for Week 5 of the Lent Course will be held on:

- (1). **Tuesday afternoon April 5th**, at St Luke's Church, Stoke Hammond, 1.00pm for Soup Lunch, 1.30pm for the course.
- (2). An evening course held on **Wednesday 6th April, 8pm** at:- Green Farm, Stoke Lane, Great Brickhill

All will be welcome to join in any of the sessions at any of the venues. The sessions are independent, so it doesn't matter if you miss one.



Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.

- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Quotation

Prompt me, God;
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting. (from 'Kneeling' by R. S. Thomas)

Reflection

(I wrote this a few years ago, about the experience of waiting in the life of a carer)

Much of the life of a carer can be taken up with waiting ... At a deeper level a carer may wait, and long, for change, for help, for healing, or for it all just to stop – at least for a while. There is a spiritual aspect to waiting, and a promise that God can be found in the waiting. From the story of Abraham in the Book of Genesis, and Hannah (1 Samuel 1), to Simeon (Luke 2. 25-35), the Bible is full of the stories of those who are called to wait, and we are promised:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. (Isaiah 40.31)

That is the King James version, and the NIV translates this verse as:

But those who *hope* in the Lord will renew their strength.

Some questions

1. Why do we often find waiting so difficult?
2. How can waiting be a positive part of our faith and life?
3. Can we speak of 'fearing' God as a good thing, as this psalm seems to do?

Prayer

Faithful God,
who calls your people to wait
in faith and hope:
give us the faith to wait for you,
and to rejoice in your forgiving love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Full details of the Lent Course can be found on the website:-

See the "Lent Courses" section:- <https://brickhillchurches.org.uk/lent-course/>