

Read: Matthew 6: 25-34

Modern society thrives on creating, constructing and preparing for the future. We like the comfort of predictability. We like to be in control.

The COVID-19 pandemic has robbed us of control. It has robbed us of confidence and certainty. It has robbed us of abundance. (Yes, I'm referring to rice, pasta and toilet paper.) It has robbed me of travel plans and precious time with my sister in her home on the tiny island of Mabul. It is robbing us of the ability to create, construct and prepare for our future.

Jesus tells us to not worry about the future. Author Sarah Young writes that this is not a suggestion, but Jesus' command. She illustrates that God divided time into days and nights so we would have manageable portions of life to handle. When we live in today but worry about tomorrow, we wear a burden greater than God intended.

That's not to say we shouldn't consider our future. When he made us in his image, God gifted us with an intellect that we should use to his glory. So it's appropriate to have a vision, to strategise and prepare, and to actively support the quest for a COVID-19 cure. However, there's no need to commit emotional energy to the future. God gives us everything we need for today, and we can live in peace knowing he will do so again tomorrow.

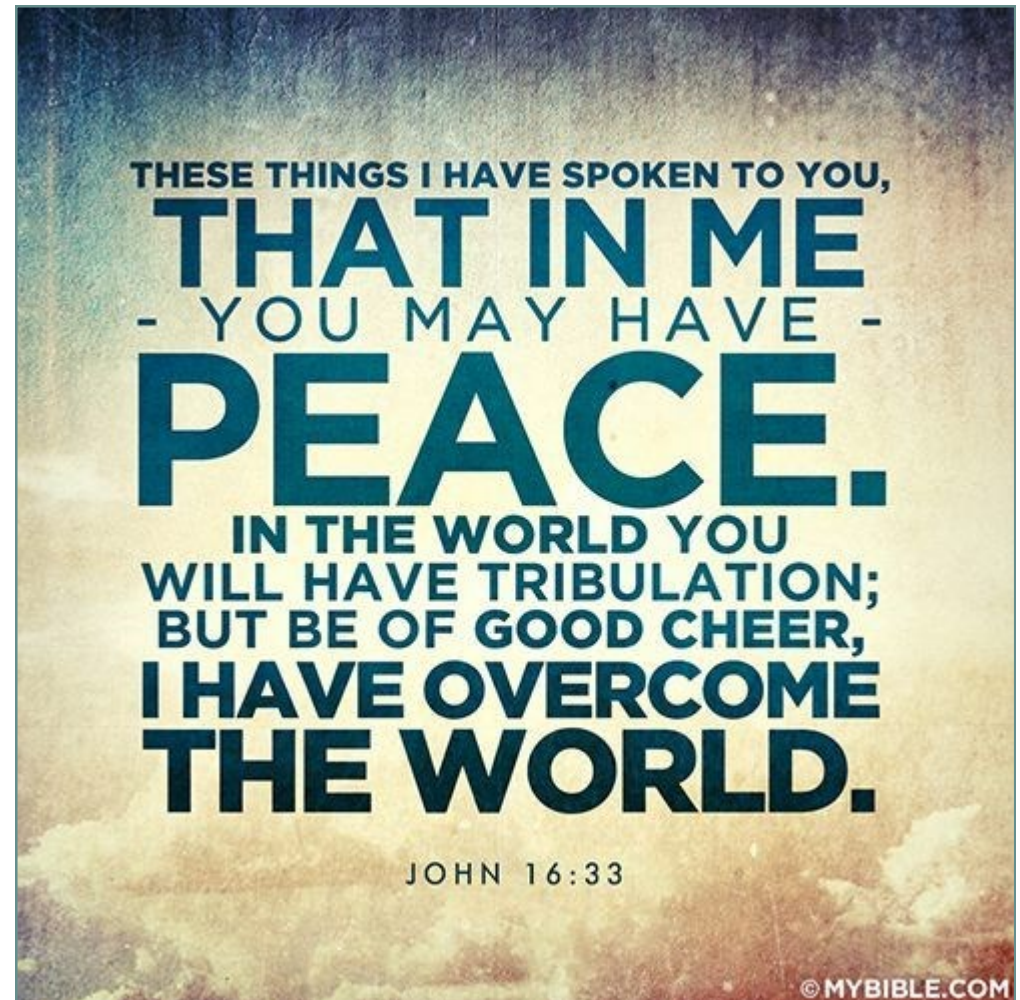
Today is where we are, and today is where we need to be.

Father, we are easily burdened. We can do a lot in our own strength but, when we draw on your strength and power, we can do even more. So let your joy be our strength. We commit tomorrow to you, knowing you will equip us when we get there. Amen.



St James Lutheran Church
abide · love · shine

29th March 2020
Fifth Sunday of Lent



Online Service Times

Due to restrictions on church gatherings, services will now be streamed online, via Facebook and YouTube.

Lenten Services will continue and will be recorded and streamed at 3 pm each Wednesday. Maundy Thursday Service will be available from 7:30 pm, and Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday at 9:30 am.

Find us on Facebook - search for St James Lutheran Church Whyalla, find us on YouTube or go to our webpage www.stjameswhyalla.org.au

Don't have internet? Then check your letterbox for Pastor Lee's sermon and other resources to keep you informed.

Practice safe hygiene, social distancing and stay home wherever possible.

Bible Readings for Today

Ezekiel 37: 1-14
Romans 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45



Bible Challenge 2020

Mon	Mch 30	Isaiah 17: 1-14
Tues	Mch 31	Isaiah 18: 1-7
Wed	Apr 1	Isaiah 19: 1-25
Thu	Apr 2	Isaiah 20: 1-6
Fri.	Apr 3	Isaiah 21: 1-17
Sat.	Apr 4	Isaiah 22: 1-15
Sun.	Apr 5	Isaiah 23: 1-18

Contacts

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Generally available at the Church Office Tues—Fri 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Email Bulletin notices to stjameswhyalla@gmail.com

or visit our website at www.stjameswhyalla.org.au



General Notices

Farewell Brian Brereton

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to our brother and mentor Brian Brereton.

He will be sadly missed by all of us but greatly welcomed in heaven.

A man of great faith, courage and wisdom.

BE STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS
DO NOT BE AFRAID
DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED
FOR THE LORD
— YOUR GOD —
WILL BE WITH YOU
Wherever
◆ YOU GO ◆
Joshua 1:9

Grace and peace to you all.

What a crazy world we live in! Yet, God has known all of this was going to happen for a very long time, so even when we feel unprepared, we can know that He is fully prepared and in control. The LCA has decided to submit to our Government in ceasing church gatherings, which I wholeheartedly support. This is not a persecution of the church, simply a temporary time for us to be more creative. So as we are unable to gather physically, here is our plan for this time:

1. We have set up a system to record and stream services each Sunday, as well as the final midweek Lenten service and the Easter services. These will be accessible on the St James Lutheran Facebook page, YouTube channel and our webpage - www.stjameswhyalla.org.au
2. I also hope to set up short daily devotional times which will be on the same platforms. Please be patient and forgiving as we learn the best ways to work with the equipment we have access to.

However, there are a large number of members in our Parish that do not have internet access, so we will be trying to organise mail drops with the Bulletin, sermons, and any devotional material we can find. We will also be coordinating to make regular phone calls to all members. Please use this opportunity to spend time in God's Word and prayer, and remember that "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him" (Romans 8:28)

Please also feel free to contact me anytime.

May the peace of God be with you, Pastor Lee.

