

Sunday 22nd March 2020, Dander with God

This is not a service. It is vital that everyone keeps 2m distance from each other (unless you live in the same house.) Please keep to all the latest advice we are being given. Do not touch each other and do not gather round.

There's a **bible story** printed on this sheet with some questions, which you can think about yourself or discuss with someone else (at a safe distance.)

Stop and pray. It doesn't matter what words you use. During your walk turn at times in the directions suggested and say a prayer.

The words '**No matter what!**' can be called out in response to someone else calling a statement such as "God loves you" or "Do not be afraid" - all shout: "No matter what!"

If someone strikes up in **song**, keep walking and join in. Or start one yourself. There are various suggestions or come up with your own.

Don't leave without passing on a **blessing** to someone. "Peace be with you" in sign language. Ask the minister, watch someone else and pass it on.

“There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead.

It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came there, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by on the other side.

But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Take care of him,’ he told the innkeeper, ‘and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.’

In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?”

“The one who was kind to him.”

“You go, then, and do the same.”

Can you imagine this story happening here today? Who might walk on by on the other side? Who might stop to help? How does it tie in with social distancing?

In Jesus' story the Samaritan was the enemy, while the priest and the Levite were leaders in society. Are we sometimes surprised at who helps and who doesn't? Do you have experience of this? What about yourself - how might others regard you? How do you regard yourself?

The answer at the end is "the one who was kind to him."

How might we do that in our current situation? (for yourself to think about only)

Take time to **stop and pray** (in any order you like):

Turn to the **east** - the sea is vast and powerful, the view is beautiful. Contemplate nature that has been there for millennia and God who has been there long before that.

Turn to the **west** - our town and its people need your prayers.

Turn to the **south** - in Edinburgh and London are the governments who are trying to make very difficult decisions on the best way ahead based on the advice they get. Pray for them.

Turn to the **north** - towards the Victoria Hospital, symbol for us of the NHS and all the health workers, advisers, researchers, as well as the other key workers who are giving so much to keep us as safe as possible.

Songs:

When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter, were you there?

Other verses....

Last verse: Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there,
And the creed and the colour and the name don't matter, I'll be there.

Or:

What a friend we have in Jesus
Will your anchor hold in the storms of life
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning
He's got the whole world in his hands
More?

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. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and 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;
'tis 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.