

YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD LIKE A CITY ON A HILLTOP THAT CANNOT BE HIDDEN

Dear friends,

I hope that you enjoyed our Sunday service as much as I did. It was great to be able to sing along with our worship team and wasn't Kenny's sermon on Elijah excellent? His message seemed spot on. God does not only work in the extravagant, on the mountain tops of life, but is also working in the valleys of life. In many ways, it is when life is hard that we are more acutely aware of God's presence and guidance. Sometimes, like the foot prints poem, we recognise this after the event whilst other times our perseverance is rooted in God. Either way God is always faithful and sure.

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies.
(Psalm 18:1-3)

God, as the source of the church our rock, calls us into community together so that we can bear each other's burdens (prov. 17:17; gal. 6:2). I am encouraged how much we have been exercising this in our **buddy groups** and when we gather together. Gregor suggested an excellent idea that it would be great to have a central location for our prayers. I have created a document that we can all edit accessible at: https://dunfermlinewest.org/prayers

Please have a look at the document and update us on any of your prayer requests. Additionally, it would be good if the buddy group leaders can ensure that they are updating the document regularly with prayers from their groups. Several group leaders have been sending out a weekly update email on behalf of their group, it would be great if all the group leaders would be able to do this.

You are welcome to join us **tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11:00am** for a time of prayer and reflection. You can tune in live by following the instructions at https://dunfermlinewest.org/online/. In addition, so that we can pray together please phone into our telephone conference using the details on the "Stay Connected" page in this email. The telephone conference is private and will not be shared live.

This Sunday we will be streaming live again at 11:00am and will be including a time of praise and communion. I will send out information on Saturday but consider putting aside some bread and juice so that we can share communion together.

Each Sunday we will follow up with study questions which you can use during the week. This week a few of us will trial a video conferencing tool called zoom so that we can start a **weekly bible study group**. If you would like to be a part of this trial please do let me know.



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Study Questions on 1 Kings 19

- 1. **Optional Ice-breaker**: Describe a time when you got lost. What happened and how did it make you feel? How did you resolve the situation?
- 2. In the sermon, 2 possible reasons were discussed for Elijah's despondency. In your opinion, do you think he was more depressed and full of self-pity or displaying anger at Ahab and Jezebel's lack of repentance? Why do you think this?
- 3. God looks after Elijah's physical needs first (vs 5-9). Why do you think does he do this? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
- 4. God gives Elijah a demonstration of his power through earthquake, wind and fire. However we are told that God is not in any of these three displays. Why do you think God gives these signs? What do you think the writer is trying to tell us by pointing out that God is not in these dramatic signs? What can we learn from God's use of the gentle whisper to communicate with Elijah and encourage him out of his cave? Can you describe a time when you feel that God spoke to you in a quiet way?
- 5. God recommissions Elijah to anoint two kings and a replacement of himself as prophet (vs 15-18). What do we learn about God's character from His dealings with Elijah in this way, despite Elijah losing his way?
- 6. What is the main lesson that you take out of this chapter that you can apply to yourself as an individual or as a church?

The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be the God of my salvation,

...

For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.

Great triumphs he gives to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

(Psalm 18:46-50)

Let us continue to stay in touch, to pray for one another and to not lose hope.

Your brother in Christ, Anthony