



Worship at Home—10 May 2020

Dear Friends of Currie Kirk. Please get in touch with the Kirk Office (451 5141) if you need anything. We have friends willing to listen, shop, walk a dog, fix a garden. Website: <https://www.curriekirk.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CurrieKirk/>

Call to Worship

Come to the Lord, our living Stone
The Stone rejected by many but precious in the sight of God
Come and let yourselves be built as living stones into a spiritual temple
We are a holy priesthood, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ
Let us worship Him.

RESURRECTION PRAYER by David Adam

We arise to life today, We arise to light and love
We arise to life today, Through the love of God above.
We arise to life today, In the power of the Creator adored.
We arise to life today, Through Christ, our risen Lord.
We arise to life today, With energy for each hour
We arise to life today in the Holy Spirit's Power

Christ, risen in glory, Scatter the darkness from our path.
Christ risen in glory. Lift the heaviness from our hearts.
Christ, risen in glory. Dispel the troubles from our minds
Christ, risen in glory take the weariness from your world
And we will serve you in love, in joy and light and peace. Amen

The Scripture Readings are taken from Psalm 31: 1-3, 14-16, 24; and 1 Peter 2: 4-6, 9—10



Christian Aid Week 2020—10—16 May

Currie Kirk has created a 'Just Giving' page under the main umbrella of Christian Aid. If you would like to make a donation using this method, you can do so by clicking on to "Just Giving" and typing Curriekirk Kirk where you will find the link to Christian Aid Week 2020. Have your debit/credit card or Pay Pal details ready. Simply 'skip' the message page. (Payment may be made until 30 June).

Please check the Kirk website for Easter's Sermon: <http://www.curriekirk.org/>

Meditation



This is Christian Aid Week. Normally we might deliver envelopes, enjoy coffee mornings or craft fairs to aid this fantastic charity. As it is, this is a virtual Christian Aid week. On the Kirk website there is a link to give to Christian Aid. Please give if you can.

Christian Aid has humanitarian projects in 37 countries. They partner with 475 local, national and international organisations in places like Syria, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan . . . providing food, education, medical support, gender justice against abuse. The 2020 focus had been to help people where floods and famines cause drastic suffering. You may ask, 'how can we focus on Christian Aid when there is suffering here at home?' The UK death toll now over 30,000 and many struggling to get through.

We remember this Pandemic is a global crisis. Christian Aid's website offers a myriad of videos showing their projects, giving a sense of life on the ground. One shows Christian Aid teaching hygiene and providing sanitation and healthcare in places of Africa where social distancing in shanty-towns is difficult. There are lots of on-line ways to contribute or pray. Some are fun—next Saturday 16th May, the new Moderator of the Church is hosting a quiz for Christian Aid via Facebook. In these Pandemic times, how relevant is their slogan, "We believe in life before death." Christian Aid keeps us mindful that Christianity is a global faith.

This week Radio 4 discussed globalisation. Gideon Rachman, of *The Financial Times*, explained that some think the Pandemic heralds an end to globalisation: trade and travel ended abruptly. Borders were suddenly closed, immigration suspended. Some countries have seen a rise in protectionist, isolationist attitudes.

Theresa May's letter in the news last week expressed disappointment at the lack of international coordination and cooperation in response to the virus. She lamented, "the global impact of Covid-19 and our inability to forge a coherent international response to it." Whether or not you agree, she claimed the government treats the virus as a "National issue" and is not doing enough to "embrace its wider international role."

With great respect, all leaders, businesses, churches and charities (including Christian Aid) are struggling to adapt. Our leaders have to create policies that protect people under their guardianship. I did see an article that made me laugh. It compared countries' shops that are open—the ones that are deemed essential! In Britain it was only supermarkets, but now some hardware stores. In the US, the hardware stores were kept open from the start as well as the gun merchants, because you need a gun during a pandemic !? France won my bonus points. In France the shops deemed essential included the bakeries and patisseries (of course,) the purveyors of fine wines and cheeses—AND the most important of all, the chocolatiers. Who could survive a lock-down without luxury chocolate?



On Radio 4, Valerie Hansen recalled that globalisation is older than we think. The ancient Ming dynasty, for one, built roads, and a sea trade with 20,000 ships exporting ceramics, spices and silk. The concept of globalisation isn't new at all. I doubt a virus could kill it. We live in God's world and the church is a global community. Christian Aid is testament to that.

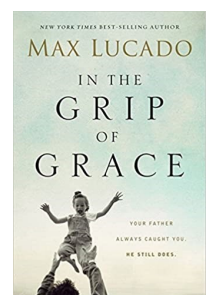
The Christian faith, in its earliest foundation perceived God's world as a global community. Jesus never intended the faith to stay put. His vision for a heavenly kingdom on earth was worldwide. He instructed his followers, "Go to ALL NATIONS and baptise them . . . and teach them to observe all I have taught you for I am with you."

The faith spread like wildfire. Roman roads and sea routes enabled apostles like Peter to take the message far and wide. People from every race, background or class, wealthy or poor, slave or free, young or old, Jew or gentile, received the Good News that no one is excluded from this world-wide communion of God's love. (For God so loved the world)

In today's reading, Peter writes to the churches in Pontus, Asia, Galatia, Cappadocia . . . scattered provinces across the Roman empire, churches in need of hope and encouragement. He brings up this image of a rock. A living stone. Somehow we think this image of a stone gives strength because rocks are pretty strong. But this is a living stone, and indeed he is referring to Jesus himself. God is often referred to as the 'rock of salvation' in scripture. Jesus, however, is the stone that was refused . . . yet despite suffering became the head cornerstone heralding a new life for humanity. He became the foundation stone for all of our life of faith.

In his book, *In the Grip of Grace*, Max Lucado tells of his boyhood days when he and his friends would gather on the street to play football. One of their dads would sometimes join in. Max Lucado writes, "His appearance in the huddle changed the whole ball game. He was strong, confident, and he always had a plan." And he would always join the losing side. So the game soon experienced a turnaround.

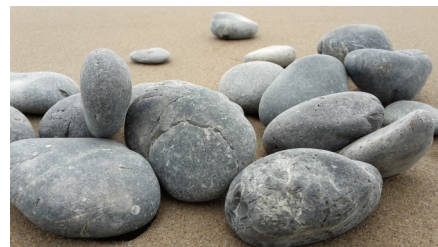
His simple analogy illustrates the same difference that Jesus makes. In the midst of storms or trials, Jesus stands solidly with us pouring out his compassion, confidence, courage and hope. Peter encouraged the churches not only to seek strength from the Living Stone but to know that they, in Him, are living stones. He wrote to them, "you also, like living stones are being built into a spiritual house."



Church of Scotland Living Stones—check out the website

William Barclay tells a lovely story about Sparta. The story goes that a visiting King entered Sparta and shouted to their ruler, "Where are all these walls around Sparta that you boast about?" Looking towards his bodyguard of troops, he responded, "Look around you, these are the walls of Sparta, every man a stone."

We are Jesus' living stones. He is our strong and sure foundation upon whom we can build our lives, even in such trying times as this.



On Friday we commemorated VE day when May 8th, 1945 allied nations which had sacrificed and fought were able to proclaim the victory over tyranny and oppression. There was no social distancing then, as strangers kissed and hugged and danced in the streets. This week we watched and remembered at home. We honour their sacrifice, and the victory for freedom and humanity. Churchill's moving speech paid tribute to the allied forces which united together to bring peace to our nations.

We know that nations have and will work together to respond to this Pandemic.


In the meantime, this Christian Aid week, let us remember to pray not only for those in our own nation in need, but for those working farther afield with greater challenges and fewer resources. Christian Aid cares for all regardless of race or estate—in Christ's global, heavenly kingdom, everyone deserves to have life before death.



Did you know?

- Earth has more than 60,000 known tree species.
- Trees help us breathe by producing oxygen and taking in carbon dioxide.
- A large oak tree can drop 10,000 acorns in one year.
- Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world, reaching heights of 91 metres.
- A variety of Eucalyptus tree has a rainbow-coloured bark.

How many pineapples can you find hidden on our activity sheet?



Help Onesmus find his way to the dam.





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Pastoral Prayer

Holy and Loving God, we come to you knowing that we will never be rejected because of all that our Risen Lord has done for us.

Light in darkness, Life out of death, Creator of unity, we rejoice in the triumphs of your love and grace.

Out of darkness and distress you bring light and certainty and peace

Out of mortality and fear of death, you lead us to hope and eternal life.

Out of scatteredness and shapelessness you can gather us as living stones

You make us into a holy people,

A worshipping community, A corporation of service,

A brotherhood and sisterhood united by your love.

In these difficult days help us listen to our sisters and brothers who need our prayers

Let us stand in solidarity with all who are suffering

We pray for veterans who remember well the trauma and cost of war

As many remember VE day in the quiet of their homes; We remember to your love the armed forces serving now abroad and in our own land—working to build hospitals and Covid test units

Let them know we are thankful for their service

We pray for all those working in our shops and care homes for the elderly

We pray you sustain, encourage and uplift them

And that you surround all those working for the NHS with your protective love

Bless to the elderly and those in hospital that they may feel surrounded by care

We pray for Christian Aid, Working with people who are hungry

Because of unpredictable and extreme weather

Because people are displaced as refugees

May the efforts of Christian Aid not be cut back in these uncertain times

We pray for all those volunteers and experts in the field in places which there is no NHS and little money

For people who are struggling to make a living in ever more challenging circumstances.

We pray alongside people everywhere who show that another world is possible through their words and actions and prayers.

Give us the strength we need to play our part in restoring Your world to act justly and to walk humbly.

May our love for our neighbours, even for those far from us, make known our love for You and reveal your love for us
We ask these things.

In the name of Christ,

In whose name we pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever.*

Amen.