

All Saints' Church

Cottenham with Rampton



Pastoral Letter #33

28th October 2020

Dear Church Family,

Last week, I came across what looks to be a good book called *'Treasure in Dark Places'* by Liz Carter. Liz is an author living in the north of England. She wrote her latest book while shielding in Lockdown this year with a chronic illness. Her collection, with its stark honest poetry and re-imaginings of events from Scripture, points us to hope, even when we struggle to see light on the horizon of our lives. But, it's sometimes in the darkest corners we find unexpected treasures. Occasionally however, it can be difficult to pray, so this week I offer you one of her poems called 'A Prayer for a Life in Ruins'.

When our lives fall into ruin,
may we look to glimmers of light on the horizon.
When we live under despair-laden darkness,
may we know the hope that is an anchor for our souls,
steadfast and certain, carrying us into light.

When we are battle-weary and bemused,
may we know you have already won.
When we live with hard edges and stony hearts,
may we be softened in the dazzling light of your love.

When we live in brokenness,
may we know that love stronger than death
has already shattered the darkness.

When we live in desolation,
may we know our winter-bound land
bursting into vibrant sun-drenched life.

When we live under pain and sorrow,
may we know that instead of mourning there will be joy,
instead of despair a garment of praise,
instead of ashes a crown of beauty.

When we live a life with borders,
may we know how wide, long,
deep and high is the love of Christ,
and the surpassing greatness of his love.

When we live under waiting,
may we know the everlasting arms
encircling our past, present and future.

When we live in captivity,
may the hope of Christ break through
and lead us to joy unspeakable.

If this poem speaks to you today and you'd like to chat, please get in touch. I'm happy to meet up either in the church or people's homes, wherever you feel most comfortable.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore. Amen.

Best wishes,

Revd Lynda Davies

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