

Thoughts For Sunday September 13th.

Today I want us to think about how God is always the same and is utterly reliable. We begin with a hymn by Mary Peters who was left a widow at the young age of 21 and was well acquainted with grief and hard times, but Mary found strength and comfort in her faith and proved God reliable. She left us this hymn as her legacy.

Hymn'Through The Love Of God Our Saviour'

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+hymns+through+the+love+of+christ+our+saviour&docid=608046453000962597&mid=763265053FC3D386AA14763265053FC3D386AA14&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

[q=youtube+hymns+through+the+love+of+christ+our+saviour&docid=608046453000962597&mid=763265053FC3D386AA14763265053FC3D386AA14&view=detail&FORM=VIRE](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+hymns+through+the+love+of+christ+our+saviour&docid=608046453000962597&mid=763265053FC3D386AA14763265053FC3D386AA14&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

Prayer... Dear Lord we thank you this Sunday morning that although apart, we together can bring you our praise and worship. We invite you in the person of Your Holy Spirit to be present with us, to move in us and through us, and grant us the joy in of being with You and sharing worship with our fellow believers. We ask this In the name of Your Son our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

In Malachi 3 : 6 We read 'I the Lord do not change.'

When I was a young man and received my first promotion in retail management, I asked my boss if it was permanent, he in reply said that the only thing constant or permanent in life is change.

These past months we have all proved the truth of that statement. Everything that we knew has changed, and talk now is not of returning to normal but of finding the new normal. Certainty has gone, things we accepted as absolute have crumbled. Some have lost family or friends to this dreadful Coronavirus disease, jobs have been lost, through debt homes and businesses have been lost, children have missed schooling and friends, for long periods we were unable to meet close family, or entertain in our homes or gardens, nothing now is as it was at the beginning of this year. Something so small that it can't be seen has changed the world we knew.

And yet we read in God's word the Bible 'I the Lord do not change'.

Have you ever said 'But for Jesus, but for my Lord, but for my faith I don't know how I would have coped or got through that situation, that difficulty, that loss?' Well as a Christian, a believer, a follower, a disciple of Jesus you have proved the truth of that verse in Malachi, 'I the Lord do not change,' and now is the time, this is the opportunity, to show to the world, including your neighbours, friends and family, the people you spend time and socialise with, meet at work, school or college the truth of God's statement 'I the Lord do not change'.

The song 'Faithful One, so unchanging' expresses my thinking very well....

'Faithful One, so unchanging.....Ageless One, you're my rock of peace

Lord of all I depend on You.....I call out to You, again and again.....I call out to You, again and again'

In Mat 6 : 9 – 13 Jesus taught His disciples to pray this way....and He begins...

'Our Father in heaven, hallowed, honoured, revered is your name'why? Because Lord God, Your Son Jesus, His disciples, and we recognise that You the Lord do not change, and are utterly reliable. Help us to work out that certainty in our worship ,in our lives and in our witness.

If you wish to take communion the last slide of our next song shows the bread and the cup of fellowship, so please share remotely with your own bread and juice.

Let's sing 'Faithful One, so unchanging'.....

[https://www.bing.com/videos/search?](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=youtube+faithful+one+so+unchanging&docid=608012196404527605&mid=D5C484C1EBD2F3C0A40DD5C484C1EBD2F3C0A40D&view=detail&FORM=VIRE)

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Prayers and Praise Time.....

- **Pray for our nation, that our leaders will be given wisdom and integrity. Pray that the spread of the virus will be halted.**
- **Pray that our decision to open up for services on September 20th will be a positive one and that God will bless us as we meet together. (*We will be contacting you all with necessary safety regulations*) Pray for our church, that we will get to know God better, and find opportunities to tell others about Jesus.**
- **Pray for people who have had hospital appointments delayed and operations cancelled due to the virus, especially those who now find it is now too late for their surgery to take place. Pray that they will know God's comfort and peace in these dark days.**
- **Pray for people with mental health issues; for those weighed down with worry, not knowing where to turn. We ask that they will find a way through, and God will send others to them who can help in their distress.**
- **Pray for people who live alone.**
- **Pray for our young people as they return to school or university.**

- **Pray for our outreach in the neighbourhood near the church as we deliver the September edition of the Good News paper. Pray for the team members who are considering volunteering with the Horwich Angels to visit local shops and businesses.**

Most of you know my connection through my son and family with New Zealand. Please receive a blessing from New Zealand Christians...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=eZQPifs2kjo&app=desktop>

Num 6 : 24 – 26 'The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace.'
Remember....Malachi 3 v 6 'I the Lord do not Change'
The Peace of the Lord be with you.....Amen