

## **LiFT Online No 4 June 2020**

### **Freedom**

A warm welcome to our monthly LiFT online. We will be following a now familiar format, with the odd tweak here and there.

In a world that seems to become more complex by the day, we have an opportunity to take some time out now to be with our Father God. Time to pause and listen to what He wants to say to us and for us to bring our thoughts and worries to Him.

The following short story was written decades ago and was based on one verse of the hymn that follows. Please read and listen and take time to reflect, with the Holy Spirit, on what the word “freedom” means to you.



## *The Keeper of the Light*

*Once upon a time, there was a man who lived in a room that in many respects could resemble a dungeon. There was a small window which let in very little light, so the room was always gloomy and cold. The walls appeared to be bare, except for a clock. What light there was seemed to rest on the clock face. The man himself was poorly dressed and bound by chains, his movements laboured and few. Nothing to do day after day, except for watching the hands of the clock, monotonously, going round. Minute by minute, hour by hour, no hope to live for. Mere existence was his life sentence.*

*Then one day something happened. Somehow a bright chink of light penetrated the gloominess that was the man's life. His hands went quickly to cover his eyes; he was frightened, never had he encountered such dazzling brightness. As quickly as it came, it stole away, leaving the man with two questions – where had it come from and would it be back?*

*Perplexed, he raised his hand to his head and when it reached the level of his eye, he was unable to suppress a cry of delight. The chain that had bound him had been broken where it was touched by the light. "If only I could get more of this light, then I would be free", he thought, "but how, when I have no money and nothing to give". Sadly, he sat down on the floor.*

*Time went by much as before, except, unknown to him, the seed of life and hope had been planted deep within. Then one day, there was a knock on the door. "Can I come in?" cried the voice from outside. "Who is it?" the man replied. "The Keeper of the Light, that you desire, I've come to break your chains, and set you free".*

*"I've nothing to give you" in despair, the man replied.*

*"It doesn't matter, I know all about you, who you are. If you want me to come in, just open the door."*

*With fear and trepidation, yet hope in his heart, with heavy laden movements he reached the door, at last. With one large tug at the handle, the door burst open, nowhere to go, no place to hide.*

*The Keeper of the Light gently entered in, bringing a light which illuminated every corner of the room. As the man gazed in wonder and awe, he marvelled at the beauties to see, but, as he looked again at the chains that had bound him, he realised with absolute certainty, that the Light had set him free.*

*Adapted from Jan 1985*

*"And can it be that I should gain" by Charles Wesley*

<https://youtu.be/sQelGbKqiW8>

### ***Galatians 5:1***

***“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.***

***Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”***

What does it mean to you to “be free”?

Can you think of a time when you felt truly free, praise God for this time

What things prevent you from being free today?

Please now set aside approx. 10 minutes of listening time. Firstly, for words for the Church and then for each other. Allow the Lord to place a name or image of someone in the Church family into your thoughts and then pray for them. If you feel able, please follow through by contacting them, just to let them know that you are thinking of them.

**Intercessions:** Please pray as you feel led by the Holy Spirit. The following broad range of subjects may be of help:

The Terror Incident in Reading for all the many aspects of it.

All life is precious – all who are persecuted in any way.

Easing of Lockdown especially for those who have been shielding for the past few months.

For the world at large, for Covid 19, famines, wars and so forth.

Ask the Lord to place the name of one country upon your heart and then pray for that country.

### ***John 3:16***

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”***

As a final thought – “Keep the Faith” by Tim Hughes

<https://youtu.be/3BpyzIHg97s>

Our July (28<sup>th</sup>) meeting would normally include food, so may I ask you to find something that you enjoy eating plus a drink to “share” together.

Keep safe

Margaret x