

LiFT Online No 7 - September 2020

Welcome to this month's LiFT Online. Last month we looked at illustrative passages Of Jesus from Isaiah and Revelations, so, to follow on, we will begin with a song of praise which to worship God. For many, one section of this song will be very familiar, but given a modern twist.

From Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology) by Hillsong

<https://youtu.be/tP3CsHfU7dc>



The photograph above was taken from a typical, older Church wall, and would seem to be a good illustration for the verse below from 1 Peter. Please take some time for reflection. These stones may seem to be quite dead, yet within them lies their own story, each one unique, each one, no doubt weathered by the winds, rain and sun that they have been subjected to, and yet, together.....

### **The Living Stone and a Chosen People**

*<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house<sup>[a]</sup> to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:*

*“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”<sup>[b]</sup>*

*1 Peter 2:4-6 NIV*

*<sup>4</sup>The Lord Jesus is the living stone.<sup>[a]</sup> The people of the world decided that they did not want this stone. But he is the one God chose as one of great value. So come to him. <sup>5</sup>You also are like living stones, and God is using you to build a spiritual house.<sup>[b]</sup> You are to serve God in this house as holy priests, offering him spiritual sacrifices that he will accept because of Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>The Scriptures say,*

*“Look, I have chosen a cornerstone of great value,  
and I put that stone in Zion.  
Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.”*

*Easy to Read Version*

Perhaps, and if you have time, or when you are gardening, take time to look at the stones strewn upon the earth. How big are they, how many, are they all the same? Wonder, at their story. Perhaps as you do so, you might take time to reflect on your own story and your journey with God and how we can serve God as living stones together.

Please take some time to be thankful to Father God and for all that He has done for us, and as you do so, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into a time of quiet. Be still as you open your ears to hear Him and if you become distracted, just see where He takes you. If you have a thought or a word for someone with whom you feel confident to share it, please do so. As always, please listen for words and pictures for our Church.

This verse appeared in my inbox this morning which might be helpful as a way of praying as we move into a time of intercession.

***Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.***

*Mark 11:24*

Some thoughts for Prayer:

*Covid 19*

*India, Brazil, USA and our own country as it gets to grips with rising infection rates.*

*For: Yemen, Belarus, Thailand, Hong Kong.*

*For forest fires in both North and South America.*

*For all peoples suffering persecution.*

*For our local community, churches, schools.*

*For all at St James as we follow different pathways through this pandemic.*

*For those who are sick or suffering in anyway.*

As a final act of worship please listen to

Every Breath by Hillsong

<https://youtu.be/MUV0EyqTQDk>

Amen