

Reflection 20th April 2021

"May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.

May he guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.

May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors".

A Celtic Blessing from the Northumbria Community.

"Peace": it's not just the absence of war and strife and disruption but "shalom" (from the Hebrew) meaning a sense of wholeness, completeness and tranquility. When we wish one another peace, we wish for an increase of all-round health in body, mind and spirit. It is the peace that only resting in God can give.

How are you feeling today as you come to this reflection?

Hear God and the whole of this Christian community speaking words of wholeness and calm over you. Receive the gift of peace in your hearts and minds. Pause and enjoy the peace.

"Wherever he may send you":

Today, can you absorb the good news that God is the One who sends you: into every place and situation? To those work/family situations which are difficult; to those members of your circle of friends who may be sick; to that person you have to mix/work with who always seems to rub you up the wrong way. The One who sends you does not send you out alone. He goes with you. As Jesus took his leave of his friends at his Ascension, his final words were:

"I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20)

"May he guide you through the wilderness"



Sometimes as we look at our present circumstances and the way immediately ahead, all we can see is sameness and a vast expanse stretching out in front. We can ask ourselves: Where are the signposts, the waterholes and the places to rest? But we don't always find the answers, particularly if we are looking in the wrong places. When we

are unsure of the way and all the directions for travel seem to have been moved, we can remember Jesus' words: "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6)

When we don't know the next step, God calls us to wait for his guidance in our prayers and through our Bible readings.

"..... protect you through the storm"



When the disciples crossed the lake with Jesus asleep in the boat, a furious storm rose up. (Luke 8:22-25)

They cried out to him to help them and they returned safely to shore but not before they had learnt a lesson about what they had been relying on.

Faith, even small as a

mustard seed helps us to find the help we need. We only have to ask and even if it seems like God has gone to sleep and is not available to help, our own experience and the experience of our friends reminds us that he will come to our aid and give us his protection. We will not drown.

"May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you"

Our world is a feast for our senses if we remember to use them. We can find so much beauty in God's creation as long as we keep our eyes open and we don't allow ourselves to walk around looking down at the ground beneath our feet, absorbed in our own concerns. We remember that God brings us home at the end of each day after being with us through every act and person we have met. We are "at home" with him where we can share all that we have learnt and pray for those people we have met and those situations where we have felt his presence. We can talk with him as we would with members of our families at the end of each day. We are also reminded in this blessing that eventually when our work on earth is fully done, God will bring us to a place of eternal rest and joy with him. I like to imagine that we will have so much to share of the wonders he has shown us as we have tried to do his will.

Let us pray again this blessing over one another today.