

This week, each weekday will reflect on a verse of a poem I wrote a few years ago.

This poem is a meditation, inspired by the Apostle Paul's letter to the **Philippians 4: 6**: "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything and tell God your needs"....

Verse 3 for Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April:

**I've made a mistake, got it wrong, yet again  
and try as I might, I just can't break the chain....**

**Come walk with me, deep in the forest of trees,  
where harsh boughs above and gnarled roots beneath  
gash you and trip you and cause you to fall,  
but look up, for I'm waiting to guide through it all.  
I've placed gaps in the branches, so sun lights your way,  
as spring follows winter; there is night, there is day.  
Life is new every morning; you can have a fresh start.  
Find my strength within you, you are close to my heart.**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIYmM2HtdII&feature=youtu.be>

Thanks to Lorraine, Abra, Alicia, Anabelle and Ray for the video / recording you can find on this link. It is called "Come, walk with me" and Lorraine has shared it with us 'coincidentally' in the week when each verse of the poem I'm sharing has the words "Come, walk with me".

We may underestimate the importance of a new day and the hope and new insight it can bring, having 'slept on it'.... 'prayed about it' .... seen the situation from other angles, after the stress or the shock passes and we can think more rationally,

especially as we take in our surroundings and literally or metaphorically take a walk to give ourselves time to think.

We may underestimate the need for us to 'repent' and 'apologise' for something said or not said, done or not done.

This time in lockdown presents an opportunity to have a telephone conversation with someone with whom we've slipped out of contact, or to write a card or letter.

Each day is a gift for us when we arise, with the day opening before us. As we dress, we can 'put on' an attitude of positivity and ask God to shield us from negativity and despair. God sees into our hearts, so we can approach him with honesty. We can ask him to help us value what we do have and make the most of every minute to 'put our house in order'. This may mean doing the things we've put off, or at least sorting out those things we can do now, before the bigger jobs are possible. Let's not allow the gnarled roots to keep tripping us and holding us back. Let's look up to the light in the gaps of the branches, to see what is possible right now in this 'season', trusting that God will provide the strength for us.

There is a favourite hymn, which resonates with this:

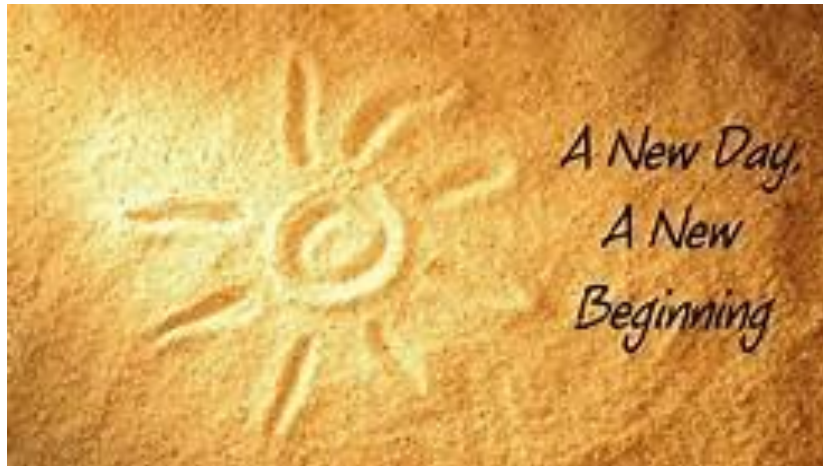
**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

A more modern hymn prompts us to sing, with thanksgiving, for the 'new day dawning' ..... whatever it may bring.....



**10,000 Reasons"**  
**(feat. Kim Walker-Smith)**

**Bless the Lord, Oh my soul  
Oh my soul, worship his holy name  
Sing like never before, Oh my soul  
I'll worship your holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes**

**Bless the Lord, Oh my soul  
Oh my soul, worship his holy name  
Sing like never before, Oh my soul  
I'll worship your holy name.**

**And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore  
Forevermore**