



STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

JUNE 16, 2024

WORSHIP – HOW GREAT THOU ART (STUART WESLEY KEENE HINE)

*O Lord my God
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made
I see the stars
I hear the rolling thunder
Thy pow'r thru'out
The universe displayed*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

*When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze*

*And when I think
That God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in
That on the cross
My burden gladly bearing
He bled and died
To take away my sin*

*When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home
What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim
My God how great Thou art*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

PRAYER FOCUS – PRAYING PAUL'S PRAYERS

May we always be full of joy in the Lord, taking pleasure in Him. Let's rejoice, remembering that the Lord is coming soon! May others see that we are considerate in all things.

May we not worry about anything, but pray about everything—every circumstance and situation, telling God what we need and thanking Him for all He has done. May we experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand and reassures our hearts. May His peace guard our hearts and minds as we live in Christ Jesus.

May we fix our thoughts on what is true, and honourable and worthy of respect, and right and confirmed by God's word, and pure and wholesome, and lovely, and admirable. Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise, may we think continually on these things and implant them in our hearts. (from Philippians 4:4-8)



I SAY IT AGAIN – REJOICE! – PASTOR KIM

Philippians 4:4-7:

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Rejoice is a word that we don't use that often. We know what it means, but we don't really use it. In Paul's day and in this context, the people would have read more into this than simply be happy. They would have read,

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“Have a public celebration! Celebrate Jesus!”

All around them—in Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth and elsewhere—there were great festivals, games and shows for people to celebrate their gods and goddesses. Paul was saying that they should celebrate their God, the true God who revealed Himself through Jesus.

Celebrating Jesus as their Lord would bring the people together and strengthen the community. It would also serve as a good witness to the people around them. He was not suggesting a party that would be over the top, loud and annoying, but rather something gracious and considerate that would set a good example to the people around them.

And then many people’s favourite Philippians verses 6-7.

In the context that Paul was writing, anxiety was common for many people. There were many pagan gods and goddesses and people had a mindset that these gods were out to get them. They never knew if what they were doing was good enough. Maybe some kind of punishment was waiting for them around the next corner.

Paul wasn’t suggesting that with God there was a guarantee of no suffering, rather that God was in control, would be near and does answer prayers.

People often wonder what kinds of prayers matter to God and if perhaps their prayers are too trivial, or too simple. Here Paul says, “Pray about everything.” If it matters to you, then it matters to God. With those prayers should come an attitude of thankfulness.

Then there is the peace; peace that exceeds anything we can understand. Many of us have experienced that peace in our lives. It’s not a lack of concern, but rather a deep peace in the middle of the storm. Often I have heard people who are suffering from all kinds of things say that they had peace. Even people who are facing death have proclaimed having peace.

The peace that God gives guards our hearts and our minds. But while we often think that this peace is for us as individuals, it is also for the Church.

This peace does not come from anything that we can do. On our own we have divisions, troubles, anxiety—both in our personal lives and also in the life of the Church. The peace doesn’t come from military might, or outside protection. Cities used to build walls to protect their citizens. No the peace that Paul is talking about comes only from God.

Because of this peace, we can rejoice as Paul instructed. When we are in relationship with Jesus, we do not need to worry or be anxious.

Of course we all worry some of the time, but Paul reminds us to pray about everything, to thank God for everything and then let His peace fill our hearts and minds. This is not about not caring or being indifferent, but rather bringing our concerns and anxieties to God and trusting Him with them. We are to give time to prayer, praise and thanksgiving and then, with full confidence, trust in God.



Commissioning of our Pastoral Team last Sunday and the dedication of Pastor Jon with Lynette and their boys (left); Young Adult Worship Night (above)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 7–8:30 p.m. – Kids Club and Youth
Thursday, 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. – Harvest Food Bank
June 18, 9:30 a.m. – 55+ Walk and Talk
June 23, 10 a.m. – Promotion Sunday
June 27, 5:30 p.m. – Mclvor Year End BBQ
June 27, 7 p.m. – Youth Thursday Worship Service
July 3, 1:30–3:30 p.m. – Meet and Greet with Pastors
July 6, 10 a.m. – 2nd Annual Mclvor Garden Tour

WAYS TO GIVE

We accept donations by cash or cheque, as well as e-transfers to mcivor@mcivorchurch.com or via credit card on www.mcivorchurch.com. To arrange a gift via Direct Deposit, please contact the office.

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