

THE CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE LIVING SAVIOUR

Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7

Cathedral News - June 2019

PENTECOST



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Message from the Vicar of the Cathedral

My dear Friends in Christ,
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour!

Church & Nation:

The ugly incidents of communal unrest that followed the Easter Day bombings and their aftermath have shown us what a divided nation we appear to be. While political leadership without exception, have contributed to this sad breakdown we see destroying the very fabric of our society, most rational and progressive thinking enlightened citizens will hold successive leaders responsible for failing us as a nation.

As investigations continue to be carried out, it is critical that everyone guilty is dealt with within the framework of the law. It is equally important that all those responsible for communal unrest that was orchestrated and carried out from the 12th to the 14th May 2019 are dealt with in a similar efficient manner by all law enforcement authorities.

The recent Presidential pardon bestowed on an individual who had been found guilty of contempt of Court has given cause for much concern. The individual also happens to be a popular monk. Questions are being raised if this pardon has undermined the role of the judiciary. Besides making many minority communities feel insecure and extremely vulnerable, the silence of most political parties has much to be desired. Is their silence an affirmation of this action? It is imperative for leaders to explain their silence to the nation!

Life in the Cathedral:

Security: The immediate impact of the Easter Day bombings has resulted in security measures that have become necessary. There is no intention to militarise the premises, but we need to take some precautions in order to provide a relatively safe space for people when they gather for worship.

I appreciate the co-operation of most worshippers who have understood the rationale behind some of the security measures put in place. Please be assured that no sooner these security measures are irrelevant, they will be discontinued. While saying this, I must state my disappointment of the failure of a few to understand this reality.

I place on record my appreciation to the Sri Lanka Army and Sri Lanka Police Force, especially the Cinnamon Gardens Police, for the fullest co-

operation, understanding and willingness to provide the required assistance so that Community worship took place without any disruption on any day after Easter Day.

Symbols of Hope:

There are some small symbols of hope and beacons of light that I have observed which have emerged out of the Easter Day tragedy. Many persons who worshipped with us and took it for granted that their family records were updated, have now registered themselves. This did not happen earlier despite repeated appeals. The numbers attending worship increased in the aftermath of the Easter Day tragedy. Increased and intense fellowship is taking place over a cup of tea after worship. This did not happen in this manner previously as the congregation dispersed from the door closest to them. But now with entry and access being restricted to one point we are meeting each other and strengthening our bonds of friendship through fellowship. Orderly and systematic parking is also taking place; an indication that we are mindful of the other!

The plan to have a service of remembrance for the Victims of the Easter Day tragedy on the 21st May 2019 had to be postponed due to logistical reasons, but no sooner this is possible it will take place after due notice.

Outreach Project:

We plan, as a worshipping Community, to reach out to the Christian Community in Batticaloa affected by the Easter Day tragedy. While we have linked up with a few partners on the ground, there is a team of persons from the Cathedral who have travelled to Batticaloa to make a needs assessment.

It is our intention to provide support to children with their medical rehabilitation, both in the short term and long term, if necessary. As more details become available, it will be shared with you in order that you may support this effort.

Confirmation Classes:

Confirmation Classes will commence this month. The office will get in touch with those who have indicated their desire to be prepared for confirmation.

Visiting:

The Cathedral Pastoral Care team is available to visit you. If you have not been contacted by the Clergy in this regard and would appreciate a

Pastoral visit, please contact Rev. Earnest at your earliest as Rev. Ratnamalar is currently recovering after an accident. In addition to this, you may contact the Parish office for help in this regard or leave a written request in the book left outside the vestry.

Personal:

As your Clergy I am sure everyone on the Cathedral Premises joins me in expressing our gratitude to a few of you who were deeply concerned for the personal safety of those who live here on the premises as the incidents of 21st April kept unfolding. The refusal of some of you to leave for your own homes until adequate security measures were in place on the compound is noted and appreciated with much gratitude.

Your continued prayers for our nation in this time of uncertainty, is encouraged.

Thanking You,

With Prayers and Blessings
Yours Sincerely,



Ven. Perry Brohier
Vicar

Holy Days / Festivals & Important Dates

11 th	Feast of Barnabas the Apostle
24 th	Feast of John the Baptist
29 th	Feast of Peter the Apostle
30 th	Feast of Paul and the Twelve Apostles

*" I will pray
for you..."*

21/4/2019
.... we will never forget



Remembering the victims and the injured on 21st April, 2019, Easter Sunday Bomb Blasts.

The day we peacefully went to Church to celebrate EASTER.

A beautiful and fitting tribute by Anila De Silva, Rachel Brohier & Dilsarah Derrick to remember all those who lost their lives on 21/4.

To the families and friends who lost their loved ones on this fateful day, the hope that this will provide strength in some small measure while struggling through life in the midst of challenging times. We will continue to Pray for You. The 3 ladies were members of the Ladies' College Choir and are presently members of the Choir at the Cathedral of Christ The Living Saviour in Colombo. The video song was recorded at St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya.

Watch this Video on given link:

<https://youtu.be/O-NmJuUW4mA>



Confidence in God

Even in Times of Chaos: Psalm 46

Following the tragic events of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks, life has become most uncertain. Today, as people walk the streets, fear, insecurity and worry grips their hearts. In this world of uncertainty, there is a longing for peace, comfort, and protection. This yearning is often followed by the agonizing realization that there is not much that we can do to offer ourselves in this sense. We can make plans and arrangements but eventually we realize that we are at the mercy of factors beyond our control. It is impossible therefore to have complete confidence in our own efforts to be secure.

Where then does our help come from? Who can truly protect us? In whom can we have unwavering confidence?

To find the answers to such questions we must turn to the words of the Psalmist as recorded in Psalm 46. He writes:

*God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.*

The Psalmist talks about the confidence that the people have in God's presence and power; even in the most calamitous of situations.

This certainty is based on God's power to be a refuge, His presence with His people, His nearness, and in His control over all circumstances. This sentiment is captured beautifully in Martin Luther's famous hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*, with which Psalm 46 is often associated. Both the Psalm and hymn serve as a reminder to the church that people can run to God for protection, help and strength. The people of Israel would praise and thank *Elohim* for His salvation, deliverance, and the great works that He has done for them. He had been faithful in the past and so, the people were able to fully rely on His faithfulness in the present and the future regardless of the situation they were in.

This theme of confidence in God is carried through the different sections of the Psalm.

Refuge and Help

In the first section (vv. 1-3), the Psalmist declares God to be the peoples refuge and help (v. 1). The word “refuge” is followed by a preposition and pronominal suffix

meaning “to us,” or “ours,” which presents the main message of the Psalm, “God is our refuge.” The term, ‘refuge’ is used figuratively to convey the idea of a place of shelter, confidence, and trust. One seeking refuge is therefore fully dependent on God. This is in strong contrast to human nature which seeks independence and relies on our own strength. The idea of refuge is also linked with blessedness; especially for those who seek refuge in *God*. The Psalmist declares, “Blessed are all who take refuge in him” (Ps 2:12b)

Having assured his audience about *God’s* help, the Psalmist goes on to define the outcome of that assurance (v. 2). *Elohim* is a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (v. 1), therefore, “we will not fear.” He affirms that they will therefore not fear natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods.

In today’s day and age, we are more than familiar with the destruction caused by such extreme tragedies.

The Psalmist uses strong language to emphasize that whatever may happen, fear is not going to shake them because *God* is their refuge and help. The fact remains that the Scripture does not deny the challenges and tragedies human beings face on this earth, but reminds us that when we face such calamities, we are not alone. This again, goes against basic human instinct which makes us believe that not being fearful in disastrous situations is almost impossible.

God’s Presence

One may then pose the question, “How?” How is it possible to not fear when calamities strike?

The confidence of the Psalmist is not based on anything extraordinary in himself or the rulers of his nation; but purely upon the presence and help of *God*. The same theme of confidence in *God’s* presence, help, and



protection since *God* is their refuge is evident through the entire psalm. It also *focuses on God's* presence and relationship with His people and establishes that the secret of the Psalmists unshakable certainty is his confidence in God

The second section (vv. 4-8) of the Psalm begins on a comforting note (v. 4). There is a river that makes Jerusalem, the city of God, glad. The river is used in a metaphorical sense to refer to blessing, restoration, peace, and prosperity. The river represents a source of life. In the midst of natural catastrophe and chaos, when people are weary, and troubled, they need the water of restoration and blessing to sustain them. This river gladdens the city and its calm water reflects the idea of peace. There is a contrastive parallelism found in the vv. 3-4 where the raging (roaring) waters are contrasted with gladdening streams (river). This highlights a shift from chaos to calmness, destruction to peace, and fear to gladness.

The assurance of *God's* presence is powerfully presented in verse 5. Because He is in Jerusalem, the city will not be shaken or overthrown. Moreover, the Psalmist declares his certainty in *God's* help at "the break of the dawn." This picture also conveys a change in situations and the immediacy of help and deliverance. It stands as a reminder that although challenging circumstances that present its self may seem uncontrollable and powerful, still, God controls them. It is said, that the thickest darkness is just before the dawn. Though the darkness may prevail in the world, God can still bring dawn and His light will shine throughout the World.

God's Nearness

After describing the disturbance and chaos developed in nature, the Psalmist goes on to describe the raging of nations and the moving of kingdoms (v. 6). Though nations clash so that kingdoms fall, they are helpless before God, in whom the Psalmist has taken refuge (vv. 6-7). Nations rage to bring destruction; but God's voice melts the earth.

This portrays God's mighty power; His words have power to create as in the creation story (He spoke and things were created (Gen 1:3)) and in Psalm 46, the Psalmist declares that the earth melts at the sound of God's voice. This illustration reflects the intensity and the thunder of His voice. After highlighting the impending threat, the Psalmist reinforces his confidence in *God's* help.

The Psalmist brings our focus again to the nearness and help of God in verse 7. He is with us; He is our refuge. God is mentioned twice in this

verse. This emphasizes that the security of Jerusalem is not by any other means, but purely by His help. This also relates with the overall focus of the Psalm. The psalmist comforts his people by adding that the LORD is with them. In the final analysis, Jerusalem and its people are safe and protected when they put their trust in God.

Come and See

In the third section, the Psalmist proclaims God's awesome work in stopping wars and destroying weapons (vv. 8-9). He then reminds Israel of Elohim's command to be still and not to panic. God is sovereign over the nations and over the whole earth (vv. 10-11). This section (vv. 9-12) begins with an invitation. After emphasizing confidence in *Elohim* as his help, the Psalmist goes on to extend an invitation to "come and see" (v.8). In a sense, the Psalmist is saying, "Come so that you will see works of the Lord." An implication of this invitation for people to come and see is that He is in control of all things (v. 9). This invitation is also linked with the invitation to "be still" in verse 10.

Verse 11 offers another invitation, for the people to cease striving and recognize that He is God. The Psalm closes with the same refrain as verse 8. "The LORD of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

Be Still and Know – I AM God

The concluding section of the Psalm emphasizes the need to know the *Unique and Only One True God*. The verse begins with two imperatives "to be still," or "let alone and do nothing." The challenge presented is to "know," "recognize," "admit," and "confess." These are the concluding commands of the psalm. It is not an option or suggestion but a command for the people to be still and recognize who God is. This is the direct claims of *Yahweh* saying "I am God" the One who is in control of everything.

This Psalm also depicts *God* as unique and that He is sovereign over all nations. The Psalmist establishes his confidence in God as a refuge who helps and protects His people. It is a hope-filled message, which encourages trust in God and motivates people to turn to Him in all situations, including their present troubles. It talks about the unshakable confidence of God's people in the presence of God and protected by the power of God; in even the most turbulent situations, such as the ones we are experiencing in Asia and the Middle East today.

“God is our refuge,” says the Psalmist confidently. He affirms that God is with them and that He is a source of strength no matter what takes place around them in the world. God being a refuge and defense is associated with His relationship with His people. The thrust (v9) of this Psalm is that people should trust God and have complete confidence in His power, control and help in all situations.

As we reflect upon this Psalm and think about the current situation in our own nation and in the world, and read of the chaos in our news headlines, our hearts may be filled with pain. Through the study of this Psalm, may the Lord grant each of us the grace to grow in faith, to trust more in His power, and to acknowledge Him as Lord in every one of life’s circumstances. The invitation at the conclusion of the Psalm is for reflection and acknowledgement. We should be increasingly convinced of God’s ever-present help, even in times of disturbance, chaos and instability for individuals, families and nations.

Rev. Earnest Nadeem

*God who is our ever-present help in times of trouble
In the face of terror, hatred, fear, and violence,
Remind us that your love has no borders
When confronted by images of lives taken so callously,
When our faith is shaken*

*When it is difficult to forgive
When voices call for religious rivalry and enmity,
When acts of retaliation cause yet more victims,
Remind that every person is precious in your sight*

(by Helen Richmond)

[Clergy at the Cathedral](#)

Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabay - The Bishop of Colombo
Ven. Perry Brohier - Vicar of the Cathedral & Archdeacon of Colombo
(0777541234)

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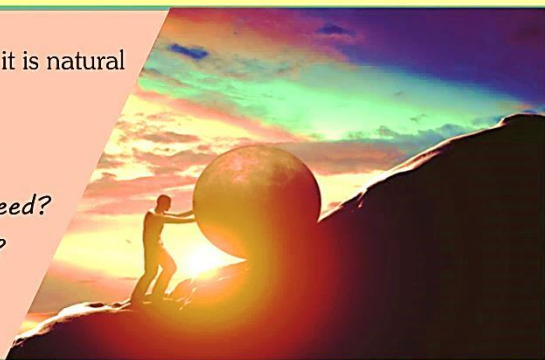
LECTIONARY - June 2019		
Date: 2nd June 2019 – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Asia/Ascension Sunday)		
Theme: “Spirit of the Ascended and Glorified Christ for Asia”		
Reading	Passage	Name of Reader
New Testament Lesson	Acts 16: 16 - 34	Shamara Herat
Psalm	97	Ayoma Fernando
Epistle	Revelation 22: 12 - 21	Cyril Amarasekera
Gospel	St. John 17: 20 - 26	Jeanne Samuel
Intercessions		Thyalan Gnanapragasam
Offertory		Herat Family
Date : 9th June 2019 – Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) Also Environment Sunday		
Theme : “The Spirit Poured Out”		
New Testament Lesson	Acts 2: 1 - 21	Sriyani Basnayake
Psalm	104: 24 - 34	Shyamal Muthumudalige
Epistle	Romans 8: 14 - 17	Oosha Chanmugam
Gospel	St. John 14: 8 - 17	Chehara Amaratunga
Intercessions		Mohan Mendis
Offertory		Ralph & Sriyani
Date: 16th June 2019 – Trinity Sunday		
Theme : “God the Holy Trinity”		
Old Testament Lesson	Proverbs 5: 1 - 4, 22 - 31	Dineth Kannangara
Psalm	8	Sharmini Sambandan
Epistle	Romans 5: 1 - 5	Patrick Bulner
Gospel	St. John 16: 12 - 15	Ramola Sivasundaram
Intercessions		Sriyantha Senaratna
Offertory		Bulner Family
Date 23rd June 2019 – Proper 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Theme “The New People”		
Old Testament Lesson	1 Kings 19: 1 - 4, 8 - 15	Dinushka Paranavitana
Psalm	42 & 43	Dilsarah Derrick
Epistle	Galatians 3: 23 - 29	Santushi Premaratne
Gospel	St. Luke 8: 26 - 39	Aruni Wijayaratna
Intercessions		Jeevakumaran
Offertory		Kshiara, Santushi & Keshla Premaratne
Date 30th June 2019 – Proper 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Theme “Commitment to the Christy of God”		
Old Testament Lesson	2 Kings 2: 1 - 2, 6 - 14	In Tamil
Epistle	Galatians 5: 1, 13 - 25	In English
Gospel	St. Luke 9: 51 - 62	In Sinhala
Intercessions		
Offertory		

Cathedral Bible Study

Perseverance in Faith

In times of uncertainty and despair it is natural to wonder:

- * *WHY should I have faith?*
- * *What sort of faith do I need?*
- * *What is the cost of faith?*
- * *How do I keep my faith?*



Join us for a Bible study series that will explore the meaning, purpose and relevance of persevering in faith.

**Every Wednesday
at 6 pm**

**5th to 26th
June 2019**

at
the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour
368, Baudhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo-7

For Further Details, Please Contact:
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