

## Friday 15 May 2020

Dear Friends,

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.*

Revelation 22:1-5

It seems likely that the lockdown will continue for quite some time yet. I know that for some, as the weeks go by it has become harder and harder. We live in dark times, with some hope of things improving on the medical front, but then will come the economic difficulties that the world will face.

We must be realistic about all of this, but not fall into despair. We know how the story ends – we see it in this passage from Revelation, the vision of John. For now we must face light and momentary troubles (2 Corinthians 4:17). Our hope lies in the Lamb, Jesus, and the eternity he has won for us at the cross. How we live now matters, as does how we best express that hope to our friends, family and neighbours. Let us be confident but not arrogant as we point to Him.

### Church News

We received word from the **Turner** family this week that **Deidra** has been offered a job in Baton Rouge, Louisiana by her employer and that they will leave South Queensferry within the next month or so. We will miss her, **Mike, Mason & Malek** very much. Mike has served on vestry and as a warden and Deidre has led musical worship for us. The boys have been lights of both Youth Fellowship and very often our Sunday worship! We knew their return to the USA would come in the next year – it has come rather quicker than they or we anticipated, but the Lord is at work, even in the midst of a pandemic! We are glad for them, but sad at their departure. We hope to say farewell to them in an online Sunday service over the next few weeks.

This Sunday, we'll share a very encouraging interview we recorded this week with our Member of the Scottish Parliament, **Alex Cole-Hamilton**. He'll talk about his work, his family, his hopes and the value of prayer.

On Thursday at 7.30pm, we meet for some practical teaching from the Bible and prayer in a '**Zoom**' **Central Meeting**. Details of how to join the meeting are in his week's programme below.

## **Lamentations- Helplessness, Hopelessness & Hope**



**17 May      When It Feels Like God Is Against Us – Lamentations 2**

**24 May      Is God's Love Steadfast? – Lamentations 3**

**31 May      Helplessness & Hope – Lamentations 4**

**7 June      Restore & Renew Us? – Lamentations 5**

### **Online Worship, Gathering and Communications**

Please read [beyond my signature](#) at the bottom of this letter for details of our online gatherings this week.

We continue to use Facebook Live for much of our online presence. A reminder that you do not need a Facebook account to participate in our live worship

times. You simply need to go to <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasedin> and look for a red symbol which says 'Live'.

Online worship is also available live on our YouTube Channel (please subscribe!) at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

We are also streaming to <https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin> if you want to try something different!

Most days during the week, I'll publish a short video 'Thought for the Day' during our (early!) morning exercise. These are available on the St Thomas' Facebook Page & Group.

Please be aware that our Facebook page has been under sustained attack this week from members of a cult. We are dealing with this through official channels, but please be aware of unusual posts and let me or Phil Taylor know and we will delete them.

Some serious work has been going on to enhance our website. This is ongoing but please do visit <https://www.saintthomas.org.uk>. Thanks to Angela Benzies for all of her continued effort on this. Angela is seeking to build a bank of photographs to be used online. Please contact her at [angelabenzies@gmail.com](mailto:angelabenzies@gmail.com) if you can help with this.


Our Twitter account has also been reactivated. Search for @StThomasEdin.

If you are interested in taking part in Online Worship on Sundays either with reading or praying, please let us know. You'll have to be able to make an audio recording of your reading or intercessions in advance and then send the file to me electronically.

We are thankful for all the work the musicians and technical people are putting in to making videos of the worship songs for Sunday. Please keep those involved in prayer.

If you have prayer concerns or needs, please let me have them by email, text or message. You continue in my thoughts and prayers. Please hold Ali and me in yours.

All love In Christ,



# St Thomas' Church Online

## Week Beginning 17 May 2020

### **Online Worship & Gathering**

All worship events are available online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sthomasedin>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1r0Eq3PqBmxioDssYXCbGQ>

<https://www.pscp.tv/StThomasEdin>

### **Sunday 17 May**

**Online Worship @ 10.30am**

**When It Feels Like God Is Against Us – Lamentations 2**

### **Monday 18 May**

**@9.30pm – Night Prayer**

### **Tuesday 19 May**

**@12pm Midday Prayer**

### **Wednesday 20 May**

**@2-3.30pm Rooted Bible Study**

Zoom Meeting (Joining details in Friday's church email or the Facebook group)

**@9.30pm Night Prayer**

### **Thursday 14 May**

**@ 10am - 'Zoom' Coffee Online**

Zoom Meeting (Joining details in Friday's church email or the Facebook group)

**@12pm – Midday Prayer**

**@ 7.30pm Zoom Central Meeting**

Zoom Meeting (Joining details in Friday's church email or the Facebook group)