

Church at Home Pack – 3rd January 2021

In the face of increasing rates of infection from the Covid 19 virus we are having a pre-recorded service this Sunday. There will be no live service in church. Join us on www.ccwsm.org.uk

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

*** In light of our current situation, please do keep an eye on the website and Facebook pages for up to date information on our Sunday Services.**

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

Holy God, our only hope is in You.
We thank you for the past,
trust you for today and believe for the future;
that all Your promises will come to pass so we can rest forever in Your love.
Amen

Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(*Touch head*)
to the tips of my toes;
(*Touch toes*)
from the lobes of my ears
(*Touch ear lobes*)
to the end of my nose;
(*Touch nose*)
from my back, to my front
(*Turn round*)
to my wiggly fingers,
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)
God loves me!
(*jump up and down*)

READ TOGETHER

Isaiah 35: 3-7



International Children's Bible (ICB)

³ Make the weak hands strong.

Make the weak knees strong.

⁴ Say to people who are afraid and confused,

“Be strong. Don't be afraid.

Look, your God will come,

and he will punish your enemies.

He will make them pay for the wrongs they did.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the blind people will see again.

Then the deaf will hear.

⁶ Crippled people will jump like deer.

And those who can't talk now will shout with joy.

Springs of water will flow in the desert.

Streams will flow in the dry land.

⁷ The burning desert will have pools of water.

The dry ground will have springs.

Where wild dogs once lived,

grass and water plants will grow.

New International Version (NIV)

³ Strengthen the feeble hands,

steady the knees that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear;

your God will come,

he will come with vengeance;

with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened

and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer,

and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness

and streams in the desert.

⁷ The burning sand will become a pool,

the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay,

grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

WATCH TOGETHER



All is not lost...

David Attenborough shows us the **Sahara Resurrection Plant**

<https://youtu.be/qK4tFicSbzc>

TALK TOGETHER

As we begin this New Year...

- Think back – What were your hopes at the beginning of 2020?
- What are your hopes right now?
- Look forward - What are your hopes for the future?

STUDY TOGETHER

Isaiah 35: 4

Be Strong. Don't be afraid. Your God will come.

Angeline explained the situation that God's people were in at the time Isaiah spoke these words to them. A different situation to the one we find ourselves in now but these words are still relevant to us today.

- Do these words bring you hope? Why?
- The Bible is full of God's promises to his people. Angeline reminded us of some:
 - ❖ I will never leave you
 - ❖ Don't worry but pray and God's peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus
 - ❖ Nothing can separate us from the love of God
 - ❖ God works all things together for good for those who love him
- Can you find any more?

Verses 5-7 paint a beautiful picture of healing and hope.

- Although these verses obviously speak about physical healing, we can receive spiritual healing too. How might the blind see and the deaf hear in a spiritual sense?

Verses 6-7 talk about life springing up in the desert.

- You might like to use the **Reflect Together** section to think some more about this.

Angeline told us that although this passage is a message of hope for us now as it was for God's people back then, it has a bigger meaning. Read again the passage from **Revelation 21: 3-4**

³I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."

We have a hope that reaches far into the future - an eternal hope -

Be Strong. Don't be afraid. Your God will come.

PLAY TOGETHER

With young children you might like to **'Play the story'**

You will need:

Something to be the desert: maybe a tray of rice or couscous (if you don't mind messy/sensory play) or a yellow duster

Something blue for the streams: maybe a scarf

Some greenery or flowers: maybe some leaves you have found on a walk

Bring your 'desert' to life with the things you have collected as you say the words and do the actions together.

God gave a message to Isaiah
(spiral one hand towards yourself)
and Isaiah told the people:
(spiral the same hand away from your mouth)
streams of water will flow through the desert,
('ripple' your fingers)
and flowers will bloom in the wilderness.
('grow' your hands like flowers opening)

Finding Hope

Write the word 'HOPE' on several pieces of card and hide them round your home or garden. Everyone else has to try and find them. When all the cards have been found talk about the fact that sometimes, when life is difficult, hope is hard to find - but with God it's always there somewhere if we look for it.

MAKE TOGETHER

Blooming Flowers

During our service, we used folded flowers to write our prayers on. You could do the same at home!

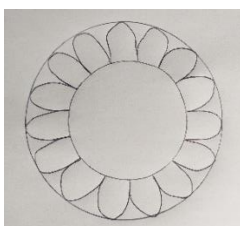


Here's a video showing you how to make your folded flowers bloom by dropping them onto a tray or plate with a little water on it: <https://youtu.be/OwxekLBdFYI>

You could also make **Flowers of Hope** to send to your friends and family!

Here's how:

- Take a piece of paper and draw two circles – a large one with a smaller one inside.
- Now draw petal shapes as shown in the picture. They don't have to be exactly the same size or shape.
- Colour in your flower. (Tip: don't use water soluble pens like felt tips. Pencils or crayons work best!)
- Cut out your flower.
- Write your message of hope in the middle.
- Fold all the petals in turn, into the middle and send it to a friend, neighbour or someone in your family with the instruction to drop it onto a tray or plate of water.



SING TOGETHER

Hope - Allstar Kids Club - https://youtu.be/r_t5xitQjlc

My Hope is in the Lord – Lifetree Kids <https://youtu.be/tJePCzTaQo4>

Streams in the Desert - Abigail Miller <https://youtu.be/00cufyDJikY>

Yet Not I, But Through Christ In Me - City Alight <https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg>

Through it all – Lifetree Kids <https://youtu.be/lPdDB2jIMjc>

REFLECT TOGETHER



If you are able, take a walk on the beach this week. Find some dry sand. Hold it.

- What are the dry, desert places in your life?
- Where do you need God to bring streams of water?
- Where do you need Hope? Ask God for help.

If you aren't able to walk on the beach or sea front, you might like to have something rough and dry to hold like sandpaper or a dry leaf or twig.

PRAY TOGETHER

Dear Lord

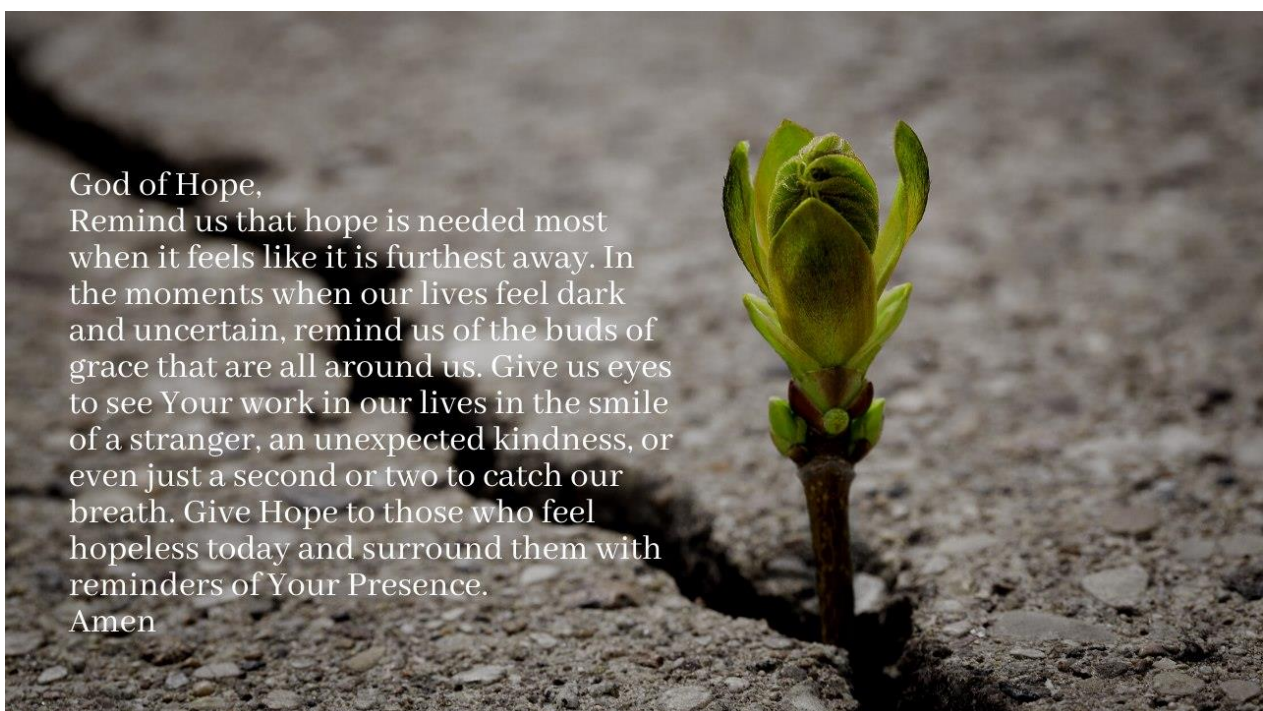
When we feel like a desert, make us into a garden.

Throw out the rubble that clutters our hearts;
dig up the weeds that tangle our minds.

Pour water on spirits that burn like the sand;
shine on us, Father, and make our lives bloom.

We pray in the name of Christ.

Amen.



God of Hope,
Remind us that hope is needed most
when it feels like it is furthest away. In
the moments when our lives feel dark
and uncertain, remind us of the buds of
grace that are all around us. Give us eyes
to see Your work in our lives in the smile
of a stranger, an unexpected kindness, or
even just a second or two to catch our
breath. Give Hope to those who feel
hopeless today and surround them with
reminders of Your Presence.
Amen

From Pastor Malcolm Duncan's 'Nite Blessings'

DO TOGETHER
Photograph Hope



Nicky talked about a photograph that she took during the first lockdown and how it symbolised hope to her. Take a photo of something that means hope to you. Keep it as a reminder or send it to someone who needs encouraging this new year

If you are able, buy a bunch of flowers or a flowering plant this week and send or take it to a place of sadness or difficulty and leave it as a gift – Perhaps for a family in trouble, a lonely person or someone who is unwell.



Email: family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

The prayer to start was written by Jayne Holloway from the World Prayer Centre and taken from the Hope Together website.

Action Reminder, Play Together (for younger children) and Prayer taken and adapted from

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