

As One At 10 – 10th January 2020

Good morning everyone and thank you for joining us online this morning.

Here we are, back in lockdown and I wonder today how you are feeling as you join us for worship. It's a tough time for all of us and each day we are being bombarded with information that affects our daily living. Perhaps you have wondered as you listen to Boris, or the news what it is you can actually trust to be the truth about the Covid pandemic, its impact, the vaccine and its rampant spread across our country and world. Perhaps you are feeling unsure, scared or full of doubt about the capability of those leading us at this time.

All of us to some extent struggle with the issue of trust. I am reminded of this year's Strictly Come Dancing show dance between Gorka and Maisie where Maisie at one point stood on staging high about Gorka and as part of the dance fell into his arms entirely trusting her professional partner to catch her safely and lead her to the next part of the dance. She had an astonishing level of trust in Gorka that gave beauty to the dance that would otherwise not have been there.

Over the next few weeks we will be looking together at what it means as followers of Christ to be people of trust – what it means to trust God, each other or even ourselves. And in a time of pandemic perhaps it is extremely timely for us to be looking again at what it means to fall into the safe arms of our God who never drops us, lets us down, gets distracted but can be completely trusted to lead us beautifully into the next part of our life with him.

I'm going to pray and then read Psalm 46 which is familiar psalm, very relevant for this season and full of reasons why we can entirely trust our Saviour God. Perhaps there are phrases that will jump out at you and help to remind you why you can Trust God in the days and weeks to come.

Let's pray.

Father God.

We thank you that you are the beginning and the end – our God who is eternal and true and who loves all he has made with a deep and incomparable love. As we come to worship today, and to open your word together and discover more of you will you please teach us to be a people who trust – who first and foremost daily come to you confident that you have saved us and will be with us in the days and weeks ahead. May trusting you become a deep and lasting life transforming reality, that brings comfort and security and hope in these painful and difficult weeks ahead.

Read Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*³though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.^[c]*

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

⁵ *God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*

⁶ *Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

⁷ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

⁸ *Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields^[a] with fire.*

¹⁰ *He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

¹¹ *The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*