



Tel No. 01792 415222

Email: manseltonurc@gmail.com

Weekly Letter – 14 July 2024

Ephesians 2:11-22

Fellow-Citizens and Family

We all need a sense of belonging. We all want to feel valued. And we require meaning and purpose to give shape to our lives. I like Augustine's prayer, 'You have made us for yourself O Lord & our heart is restless until it rests in you.' We belong to God. God gives us value and dignity beyond measure. And being part of God's mission means that whatever we do when we act in faith becomes part of God's eternal purpose.

The letter to the Ephesians gives us that sense of belonging, worth and purpose: we are fellow citizens of God's people and members of the family of God (2:19). That comes through God's grace, a free gift of love, which gives us a basis for a life of good deeds (2:8-10). We have peace with God and each other through Jesus, his preaching and his dying on the cross.

The passage focuses on the perceived differences between Jews and Gentiles in their relations to God and uses the image of the Jerusalem Temple and the way it was divided by walls into courts that separated people. Jesus breaks down the dividing walls, which has resonance with the gospel accounts of the curtain separating off the Holy of Holies being torn from top to bottom (Mark 15:38). Jesus makes one people and 'In union with him you too are being built together with all the others into a place where God lives through his Spirit.' (2:22), which is similar to being built into a temple of 'living stones' (1 Pet 2:4). The people rather than the place become the focus for encountering God. It's no surprise that 'no longer strangers' (2:19) became a phrase for the ecumenical movement working for unity.

Take a moment to give thanks for belonging to Christ Well. Rest in knowing that you are loved by God and a valued member of God's family. Pray that God will give you opportunities to show the Spirit lives in us.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led by Rev Simon Walkling
Bible Readings: Ephesians 2.17-22: Psalm 85.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Tabernacle, Mumbles

Prayers for every household - we will pray for Pembroke Street

Tuesday, 16th July - Tea and Chat, 2-4 pm

Tuesday, 16th July, 7pm - Discussion Group in Church Lounge

Unity & Diversity

Donations of towels, men's shoes, boy's clothes, frying pans and large saucepans would be welcomed for the Clothing Bank. Thanks very much.

Adella

Swansea Food Bank Donations

Thank you for your continued support of the food bank.

Swansea Food Bank is short of the following items: small squash, small jars of coffee, tea, long-life milk, tins of rice pudding, fruit, spaghetti and tomatoes. Jars of pasta sauce, packets of rice (500 grams of 1 kg), mash potato (plus chocolate bars, sweets and crisps-given as treats).

Please can you leave in the donation box in the concourse. The food left here is also shared with The Pantry at St John's.



LIFEBOAT – A LIFELINE FROM GOD (Sea Sunday)

(Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 6.1-5: 12b-19 and Psalm 24: Amos 7.7-15 and Psalm 85.8-13: Ephesians 1.3-14: Mark 6.14-29):

Lord Jesus, you are my lifeboat in the stormy seas of life,
rushing out to rescue me when I am in trouble.

So often I cry out for help but seem unable to accept your
open-handed offer of salvation.

Teach me to trust you to relax in the strong grip of your outstretched arms,
allowing you to haul me to safety, ready to journey on with you.

Carol Dixon. (URC Prayer Handbook 2024)

