

Subject: ENCOUNTERING GOD IN BROKENNESS : SUNDAY MAY 17th

Good Morning everyone and I do hope that you are all keeping well.

Over the next few weeks we are going to think about 'Encountering God' in our lives .It is something we would have followed had we continued with our services in Church. Last week we thought about Worship and Praise and this week we reflect on 'Brokenness'

"We know that all things work together for good for those that love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28)

You may have encountered God many times in your life especially when life has been difficult. Times of ill health, doubt, fear, worry, bereavement, times when you may have felt alone and 'broken'.

During those times , you may have encountered God through prayer, healing, the kind words of another person or a direct word from God in scripture .

Many people in the Bible encountered Jesus when they were in need:

The woman at the well in her shame and sorrow,"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done." Thomas in his doubt when he realised it was Jesus ,"My Lord and My God". The woman in her pain and misery, "If I but touch his clothes,I will be made well" and Peter in his guilt and shame when after denying Jesus, was forgiven and asked to lead the Church . All were loved, healed, restored and forgiven.

God longs for us to be whole people and the verse from Romans is a much loved promise for many who have learned by it ,to trust God in the many varied and troubling circumstances of our lives.

'We believe and trust in Him ' when we can't see the wood for the trees, when we doubt or wonder what will happen next.

Today, many lives seem to be 'broken' and we are all aware of an uncertain future but God is our 'ever present help in trouble' and we need to lean on him , to believe and trust.

Words of a hymn that we can say as a prayer:

Open our eyes, Lord , we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him and say that we love him,
Open our ears, Lord and help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus. Amen.

God Bless you all , do keep in touch . If you wish to, let us know how you have 'Encountered God' in your life and especially in these troubling times.

Judith