

**Bulletin for Sunday 2 October 2022**

Good morning friends.

Some notices, following the WSAM Group Elders Meeting this last week:

With the vast majority in each of our congregations now able to worship together in person on Sunday mornings, it was decided that this Bulletin will cease from the end of October. In addition, the 'Sunday at Six' Zoom will become a monthly service - usually on the third Sunday of each month. We can reverse these changes if necessary at any point, but we're hopeful that the need has reduced for now.

Of perhaps more concern, since nobody has come forward to take over as editor of the Messenger, it will cease to be published from the end of this year (after the November / December edition). We will try to pass information between the three Church Secretaries about events etc., but the loss of the magazine will be keenly felt. It's not too late if anyone feels they could take this on - please speak to Meredith.

Let's pause as we prepare to worship... and then praise God as we sing our first hymn:

Hymn: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (R&S 104)

Prayers: God of grace, we come to you in praise,  
and in thanksgiving for your good gifts to us.  
As we celebrate this week  
50 years of the United Reformed Church,  
we give thanks for the vision that brought her to life,  
for the service, the community, the journey of faith,  
and for the Holy Spirit leading us into the future...  
Thank you for giving us a place to belong...  
We ask your blessing on everything we do,  
and on everything we give in your service,  
today and every day. Amen

followed by The Lord's Prayer

Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Reflection: We all have different life stories - the places we've been, the experiences we've had, the people we've known... and those things affect who we become - and also the way we look at the world. Not least, they affect our faith.

Here in this letter we are told a little about Timothy's background, and how his faith developed, in the context of a family and community of faith. Growing up with their example helped to form him and his faith. Faith is usually associated with communities - maybe a family, or a church, or a group of friends... We might have our own faith as individuals in relationship with God, but that faith is strengthened and grown by being part of a community - or perhaps more than one community - where faith is taken seriously, nurtured and celebrated. As we give thanks for 50 years of the URC, let's be proud of - and grateful for - all the communities in which our faith has developed.

Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer (R&S 495)

Prayers: Compassionate God, always at our side,  
because you are a God of hope  
we hold before you this world and her people...  
We pray for all affected by the war in Ukraine...  
and those worried about paying their bills this winter...  
We pray for those who are ill, physically or mentally,  
and also those who look after them.  
We hold before you our communities,  
and especially those who we love.....  
In Jesus 'name we ask all our prayers,  
including the unspoken prayers of our hearts. Amen

Hymn: How firm a foundation (R&S 589)

Blessing: May our faith grow as we travel onwards together...  
and may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with us and with all those we love,  
this week, and always. Amen

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Sunday at Six service on Zoom at 6pm this Sunday as usual - all welcome.

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