SERMON NOTES   Sunday 14th June

sunnysidechurch

Bible passage: Romans 5.1-8

Introduction
- The uncertainty and questions of the present time

Peace with God
- Is only possible because Jesus paid the price of our sins on the cross.
- The gift of grace
- Justification by faith
- Peace in the present and the hope of glory in the future
- Our sure and certain hope

Suffering
- Glory in our suffering
- Character building qualities of suffering – perseverance and maturity
- Where is God in our suffering?
- What is God saying to us through our suffering?
- How can our sure and certain hope shape our view of suffering?
- Shame – hope against hope, the apparent foolishness of waiting expectantly

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us
- The Gospel message summed up in three short verses.
- Boasting about our hope brings glory to God

Some questions for discussion

1. What questions and uncertainties are affecting you most at the moment?

2. How does knowing that you have peace with God influence your thoughts and feelings about those questions and uncertainties?

3. Read Romans 5.1-8. Which part of this passage strikes you most today?

4. C S Lewis said: "God whispers in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Do you think God is speaking through the suffering caused by the coronavirus? What do you think he might be saying?

5. "God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him" is how The Message paraphrases verse 8. Does hearing that verse expressed differently help you to realise all over again the amazing love that God has for you? Who can you share that amazing love with this week?

For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life..
John 3.16

Why not spend some time this week praising God for his amazing love for us, and thanking Jesus for all that he suffered for us.

Revd Hilary Kemp