

Midweek Matters

Issue 38

16/12/2020

Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG

Sunday 13th December 2020-Sabbath rest, Rev Pete

We watched 'The Star' (pictured) for the first time recently. It is a lovely family retelling of the nativity from the point of view of a mill-donkey (Boaz) who breaks free of his yoke and carries Mary to Bethlehem. We don't think much about yokes in Barnt Green in 2020 but it reminded me of Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28-29 "take my yoke upon you". Jesus doesn't promise in this passage that we won't have a yoke. Jesus doesn't promise a life that is burden-free. But he says we can make an exchange for **his** yoke, and it will be easier and lighter to carry than the yoke we carry when we do it without him. How does that sound?



I love how the message translation puts it:

*28-30 "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? **Come to me.** Get away with me and **you'll recover your life.** I'll show you how to take a **real rest.** Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms** of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live **freely and lightly.**"*

There is a reason people talk about their "walk with God", not their "run with God". Let us make every effort to enter this rest of God. If this year has taught us anything it is that all we have is the present, and that we can experience his joy despite the circumstances when we slowly and gratefully turn over the moment we have **now**. But it takes intention.

- **Do you take a sabbath? What does it look like? How do you use that time?**
- **If this is new to you can you, as Pete suggested, schedule an appointment with a non-existent person to give yourself some space?**
- **Try not doing anything! Just be.** Corrie ten Boom once said that if the devil can't make you sin, he'll make you busy.
- **Is there an activity or ritual that can help you remember how good God has been to you?**

Midweek Matters is now taking a break. I pray the midweek prompts have blessed you this year.

*Have a peaceful Christmas,
Hannah*