

# Rummaging in the Week for God

## A midweek bible study from Northwest Anglican



This midweek bible study is designed to help you 'rummage' in the week for God. Much like a drawer of random bits and pieces, so we will rummage to find God in our week, knowing that the drawer always reveals something useful, something treasured and more often than not, something unexpected.

### Opening Prayer

God of grace and love, we rely on your love extended to us extravagantly and with generosity, in all ways and at all times.  
Day by day we realise the many gifts lavished upon us.  
You entrust us with the gift of the good news of the Gospel and invite us to be partners in the sharing of the message of grace.  
We praise you for all your goodness to us. Amen.

### Song



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9hetEFcJGM>  
Who Am I  
Casting Crowns

### Scripture

Romans 5: 1-11

### Reflection: Shirley

Grace! It's all grace!! That's Paul's word for us. In the earlier chapters of Romans, Paul has outlined God's righteousness, God's judgment, God's justification. "And now", he says, "Because of God's choice, the absolute amazing gift of God's unfathomable grace is ours. And 'since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ'." Wonderful, but costly grace which calls for a response that gives its all, even in times of trouble!

No-one likes the thought of suffering, yet few are spared troubles in life. At the present, no matter where we turn, we see people in crises, be it through pandemic or health issues, through the stresses and challenges of life, in economic hardship, or the imbalance between wealth and poverty, discrimination and prejudice, unperceived bias and sometimes downright cruelty.

If you are in need of support (prayer or otherwise) please contact us:  
Rev. Learnie 021 984 002 or [office@northwestanglican.org.nz](mailto:office@northwestanglican.org.nz)



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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## Reflection: Shirley

Today we are seeing suffering in ways that are confronting not only our minds and our hearts, but also our values, our faith, and our calling as Christians. How do we and can we respond? Paul reminds us that such troubled times can be a birthing time for transformation and hope.

In my reflective reading this week, I came across a painting by George Frederic Watts, who, in 1886, painted a somewhat unsettling image of 'Hope' (see image on right) She is portrayed as a blind, impoverished, apparently exhausted woman, sitting atop a dark, almost lifeless looking world. It seems to be reflecting a Nietzschean sense of the futility of hope. Yet in the dust washed heavens shines a single star, and in her hand Hope holds an almost useless lyre with only one unbroken string. As she plucks this string, she leans close to the lyre, listening for the music her fingers will yet make! A powerful image which some Christian theologians and activists have grasped as reflecting the truth of Paul's words on suffering – no matter what, hope grounded in the Grace and Love of God holds on, perseveres, refuses to succumb to hopelessness, struggles for what is just and Godly.



## Questions for Reflection

- When life upended you, how did you find the Peace of God came to you?
- When you consider the sudden shifts which have happened in the world over the last 3 months, what troubles you? Inspires you?

## Closing Prayer

God of never-ending love,  
there are so many signs of your care for the world  
those who work to address injustice and inequity,  
those who risk their lives to tend the sick,  
those who struggle to right a world suddenly descended into chaos.  
Grant them strength, courage, perseverance, patience and wisdom  
until the collective efforts bear fruit  
and humanity aligns more closely with what you designed us to be.  
Grant us the insight and willingness to live out our calling  
to be your hands and feet in the world. Amen.

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