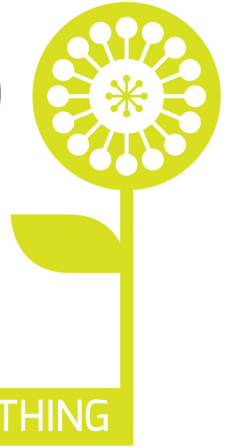


WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING 5-11 JANUARY 2015



I AM DOING A NEW THING

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY

Psalm 33:3

Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.

Music and singing are great creative expressions of worship to the God who is creative. As God does new things in our lives we will have new songs to sing, pictures to paint, poems to write and many other expressions of new creativity which tell the story of what God is doing in us and amongst us. Don't keep the news a secret, sing, play, paint, work - telling of the new thing God is doing in you.

My praise & thanks: for what the Lord is doing in your life and those around you.

I pray for me: help me to be brave and eagerly celebrate your work in me.

I pray for the church: release creativity amongst us, help us celebrate, dwell in our worship and praise.

LECTIO DIVINA

This is a great way to read scripture. You should allow plenty of time (*at least 10 minutes but as long as you like*). There is a longer article about this method of bible reading on the church website, search for "lectio divina".

- 1 Preparation: invite the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- 2 Read the passage slowly. Pause between phrases and paragraphs.
- 3 Read the text slowly again, with bigger pauses looking out for specific words.
- 4 Read the text once more, stop at one of those words and re-read several times.
- 5 Meditation: Repeat these words and allow the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text for you.
- 6 Prayer, "What might you be saying to me God?"
- 7 Contemplation: Rest. Silence. Stop doing and just be - with God.
- 8 Response: Ask yourself, and God, "What am I being called to do now?" Say thank you.

MONDAY 5 JANUARY

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

The brokenness of the world and the sinfulness of man become history when we surrender unconditionally to the love of Jesus. We receive life anew and heaven opens.

My praise & thanks: for the miracle of God's redeeming love for you and me and all creation.

I pray for me: keep my heart open to the new things you want to say to me. I repent of my sin and receive your forgiveness and Holy Spirit.

I pray for the church: as a gathering of the repentant and redeemed may we be God's new creation.

TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

Isaiah 43:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Some new things are cover versions of old things. Some new things are brand new creations. God had previously caused dry land to emerge in the sea for the Exodus to take place, now he is promising water in dry places. A brand new thing.

My praise & thanks: for God's plan and power to bring about a new and different future.

I pray for me: ask God to reveal to you what completely new thing he wants to do in your life this year.

I pray for the church: may we be ready and waiting for the new things he wants to do to us and through us.

WEEK OF PRAYER AND FASTING 5-11 JANUARY 2015

WEDNESDAY 7 JANUARY

Isaiah 42:9

See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.

Jesus takes the form of an enthusiastic guide, walking with us, urging us on to new things, taking kingdom risks as we step forward in faith.

My praise & thanks: we are not on our own, our Lord is very present through the Holy Spirit, leading the charge.

I pray for me: give me faith in you to take the risk and step into doing what you have called me to.

I pray for the church: for new people; new baptisms; new answers to prayer; a new awareness of God.

THURSDAY 8 JANUARY

Mark 2:21-22

No-one sews a patch of un-shrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no-one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins.

For over a year now we have been getting used to new wineskins (our venue, our starting point in the city). We've been learning about the new wine (why and how we grow this community of faith). Jesus calls us to drink the new wine – the way we put our values and priorities into practice: how we worship, learn, meet together, serve the community and use money/time/energy.

My praise & thanks: for the privilege of being called to worship and minister at HMC and in Headingley.

I pray for me: help me change to, adapt to and revel in the new wine and the new wineskins.

I pray for the church: thank you for HMC. Thank you for new wineskins. Pour in your new wine.

FRIDAY 9 JANUARY

Revelation 21:5

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

We live in a fallen and sinful world and we are a fallen and sinful people yet across the cosmos and the ages we hear the God of heaven cry out, "I am making everything new". There is hope, and promise and a new age to come. It is for us to repeat the cry and the promise, "the God who created you, loves you and wants to make a new life for you."

My praise & thanks: for the resurrection of Jesus which defeats the power of death and opens the door to eternity.

I pray for me: may I grow treasure in heaven and serve you on earth, help me share the good news.

I pray for the church: prepare us, may we be a community in which people discover the promise of a new life.

SATURDAY 10 JANUARY

Isaiah 65:17-18

Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

Whilst we do experience heaven on earth, it's only a foretaste, a soupcon, an echo. God promises that a time is coming when there will be a new heaven and a new earth, where "the sound of weeping or toil in vain" will be known no more. This is our hope and our vision.

My praise & thanks: that though we live in a fallen and sinful world - though it may be Friday, Sunday's coming.

I pray for me: may I live every moment ready for your call and your promise for a new creation.

I pray for the church: may we experience more of your presence amongst us as we put love into action.