



Staying Connected 14 Worship and Pastoral Resources

Week Beginning Sunday 21st June 2020

Dear friends

1 metre apart? 1.5 metres apart? 2 metres apart?

As I write, that's the question dominating the many other questions with which we are faced with at this time. In order to stay safe we are needing to socially distance ourselves from each other. The question is, how far apart do we need to be in order to stay safe? Well, first of all, let me say that whatever the government says then that is the guideline we must follow.

It does seem to me though that there are differing opinions regarding what is safe. Speak to one person and you will get their view – 1 metre. Speak to another – yet another view 1.5 metres. Speak to another – 2 metres. Where does that leave us because, you see it depends on what basis an opinion lies. Sometimes it comes from an economic point of view and the distance will be what it needs to be in order to get your business up and running. Sometimes it is a scientific point of view and that is based on many things which need to be placed in different contexts.

It's hard to know what is right. And it's made even harder, regardless of whether it should be 1, 1.5 or 2 metres, because we're trying to stay safe by doing something that is unnatural to us. To physically distance ourselves from others is not our natural inclination. God has designed us to be in relationship with each other and, moreover with Him. And there is our rescue! Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39). Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are able to have an intimacy with God that is like no other, even in these days of, (dare I say that word?!) unprecedented times.

Let me acknowledge at this point, as we celebrate Father's Day today, that some of us will not have had a loving Father/Child relationship. It is my prayer, that if that is the story for you, through this time of worship you, as with all of us, you can come to God as our Creator, a perfect parent who represents mothers and fathers, and you can be embraced by His love today and recognise your rightful beautiful place in the family of God.

We are told:

"You did not receive the "spirit of religious duty," leading you back into fear of never being good enough. But you have received the "Spirit of full acceptance," enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, "Abba Father!"

For the Holy Spirit makes God's fatherhood real to us as he whispers into our innermost being, "You are God's beloved child!"

Romans 8:15-16 (The Passion Translation)

May God bless each and everyone of you today, as we recognise our place in the family of God, praise Him as our perfect Father, and as part of a Family of Love, seek to do His will. Amen.

Rev Julie