

A photograph of a stone church building with a large Gothic-style window and a cross on the roof. In the foreground, there are white blossoms on a tree. The image is partially obscured by a blue banner at the bottom.

Weekly Newsletter: 14th November 2023

Reflection: Psalm 90

By Jude M

Recently I was reflecting on Psalm 90, which opens with the declaration: “*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations*” (Ps. 90:1, ESV). The NLT version says, “*Lord, through all the generations you have been our home!*” Take a moment to just read the verse and reflect—what comes to mind?

I don’t own a house—in Asia, I rent, and when back in the UK, I am blessed to have some wonderful friends who allow me to treat their homes as my own. As I read this verse, I realised that, if I’m honest, not owning a home bothered me. The thought of owning a home conjured up thoughts of security and belonging, and I was drawn to that. I also realise that home ownership means significant responsibilities and, given my lack of practical skills, unleashing me on DIY would likely be a danger to myself and others! However, the challenging aspects of homeownership did not jump to mind at the time I was reading Psalm 90. I think God was challenging me again to ask where my true home is. Though my mind wandered to the question of a physical home, this verse reminded me that whether or not I own a physical home, Scripture says that ultimately the Lord himself is my home—and that is true for all Christ-followers.

I found it interesting to learn that Psalm 90 is the only prayer of Moses found in the Psalms. Moses knew well the history of his ancestors, the descendants of Abraham. Already aged 75, Abraham was called out on a journey that involved leaving *home* and everything familiar (Genesis 12:1-3) with the promise that God would bless his descendants. He stepped out in faith despite the apparent impossibility of God’s promises. Since that time, Abraham’s descendants experienced times of moving and times of staying. Moses had first-hand experience of their once stable *home* of Egypt having become a place of slavery and the need to leave Egypt quickly. Moses was likely writing this Psalm while in the wilderness—wandering around on the way to a promised land where the people would one day build *homes* and settle down. Yet Moses recognises that for each generation, their true home was the Lord himself. He had been their home in Abraham’s journey of faith, in famine, in plenty, in their slavery, in their release, in their wandering, and He would be their home when they established themselves in Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. Even though it is likely that at the time of writing this, Israel was facing God’s punishment for their rebellion and Moses was pleading with God to relent (Psalm 90:11-13), Moses still understood that no tent or building was their ultimate home—God was.

As followers of Christ, God is always our place of belonging and security. Jesus left His heavenly home to save us, and as a result, in Him we are truly “home.” It is in Christ that we find our identity, belonging, purpose, and security. Passages such as Ephesians 1:3-14 remind us that, in Jesus, God has already blessed

us with all we need. He has chosen and adopted us, not unwillingly, but joyfully and in love (Eph. 1:4-5). In other words, when we are in Christ, we belong! Also, in Christ, we are redeemed, forgiven, and have a guaranteed inheritance (Eph. 1:7, 13-14)—now that is security! No matter how much the world is changing, whatever fears we may have for the next generation, God reminds us that He has been the home of generations before us, He is our home, and He will be the home of the generations to come that follow Him.

Let's not place our security in bricks and mortar. Let's not find our belonging in an address. Instead, let's remember that ultimately God is our home, and this gives us the unshakable foundation we need as the world changes from generation to generation.

Sunday Morning

There are three things happening after our morning service this Sunday –

1. We're helping the **Friends of Montgomery Street Park** with a litter pick and to plant some bulbs over in the park. Please bring a small hand trowel if you have one and head over to the park for 12 noon.
2. **Choir rehearsals** for the Christmas Carol Service are taking place. All new singers are very welcome and there is no requirement to read music - just an enthusiasm to sing with other believers to the glory of God! Please contact Norma (shippins@sky.com) for further information.
3. We're going to enjoy **fellowship and food together**. A simple meal will be served in the hall downstairs - please stay behind after the service and contact Liz (Liz@holyroodevangelical.org) if you have any dietary requirements.

Equip this Sunday - Mission Week 2024

Hopefully, most of us are aware that we will be organising a "Mission Week" in 2024. At Equip this Sunday evening, Joe will be explaining the purpose, strategy, structure, and follow-up of what we will be doing. The goal of the Mission Week is for us to be able to do mission together as a congregation. Therefore, please either attend the session in-person or, if that is not possible, watch it at home.

Mission Prayer Meeting – Postponed!

A number of our missionaries can't make the next Mission Prayer Meeting (planned for Saturday 25th November) so it's been postponed until early 2024. We'll let you know a new date for your diaries soon.

Book Group



The next book group meeting will be on **Saturday 25th November** at 3.30pm and we will be discussing *God's Rascal* by Dale Ralph Davis.

For further details please contact Anncris (anncris@gmail.com)

Praise Workshop – 3rd December

First Sunday evening of December (3rd) will be a praise workshop. The music team is going to be working with us so that we can sing better as a congregation and have a couple of Christmas carols more solidly under our belts. Come along!

Handel's Messiah – 2nd January

Everyone who asked for a ticket for the Royal Edinburgh Choral Union performance of The Messiah on 2nd January should have had an email from Anncris. If you haven't had an email, please speak to her!

Christmas Meals in Homes for International Students

Friends International is often in contact with international students who are interested in experiencing Christmas, but don't have the chance to do so because their classmates all return to their homes during the break. Most international students do not return home, so this is a great chance to show hospitality and love to these students.

Please sign up using the QR code above and Friends International will connect 3-6 inter-

national students to local hosts to meet in their home sometime during the week of December 18th to 25th.



Church Calendar

For your prayers and info:

- Monday:
 - Baby & Toddler Group from 10am – 11.30am
 - Warm Space 12noon – 3pm
- Tuesday: Pickleball and Table Tennis at 7pm
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting at 7pm on Zoom
- Thursday: Men's and Women's Discipleship 10.30-11.30am in the church
- Friday: Holyrood Youth – The Hudson Taylor Challenge from 1.15-2pm on Zoom.
- Sunday:
 - Worship Service at 10.30am (and live streamed) followed by a church family lunch. Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Equip at 6pm



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