

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE DAY



DAY 22 OF LOCKDOWN REFLECTION – 17 APRIL 2020

Good day good people of God,

The first phase of the lockdown ends today. In South Africa we have 2 605 confirmed cases of people who have contracted the coronavirus, 903 have recovered and there have been 48 deaths. May their dear souls RIP and RIG.

Our reading for today is John 20:19-23 and our hymns: Breathe on me breath of God; and Peace is flowing like a river.

Jesus comes to stand among us and says to us: **Peace** be with you! As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Jesus says to us again: **Peace** be with you.

All of us have leaked the Holy Spirit, Jesus breathes on us and says '*Receive the Holy Spirit*'. On that first appearance to the disciples, Jesus gave them and us today, an outline of the four things which we can hold on to during this time of lockdown:

- **Peace** (the Hebrew greeting, *shalom*) to calm our fears. (19)
- **Proof** that it was really Jesus and that he was alive, as he showed them the wounds in his hands and side (20)
- **Purpose**, sending us out to continue his ministry, and, in particular to preach and demonstrate forgiveness (21,23). Right now, we do that via WhatsApp, phone calls, emails.
- **Power** to fulfill our calling as Jesus breathes on us symbolically to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we consider the words of Jesus '**Peace be with you**', we have a responsibility and important role to play in **peacemaking**. As we are staying home, we realize afresh that **peaceful living** is about **trusting** those on whom we depend and **caring** for those who depend on us.

In our congregations and communities, we are to become more sensitive to the **injustices** that others are suffering. The thirst for **justice** leads us to become **peacemakers**.

To find **peace** within ourselves, we need to take an open and sincere look into the depth of one's soul. So simple, yet so difficult. To find **inner peace** and overcome difficulties and disappointments we have to start with ourselves.

Sometimes we assume that we are right and others are mistaken. The lockdown has taught us that it may just be the opposite and that we have to put ourselves in our neighbours shoes to see reality in a more accurate way.

Lots of change has happened in the first phase of lockdown. Let us continue sowing seeds of generosity, solidarity, understanding, **peace** and harmony. We all have the ability to play the role of **peacemaker**.

Let us not forget that **peace** and justice starts in the way we treat our **families**. Today, I invite you to gather around with family members at home with you and have **an honest** conversation about where we can **end** double standards. Conclude by praying for each other.

I shall not be speaking to you over the weekend but God willing, will resume on Monday.

Pray the **Prayer for Peace** at paragraph 11 on pg. 86 of An Anglican Prayer Book.

Gaan in **vrede** om die Here lief te he en te dien, Halleluja, Halleluja.

Phumani ngoxolo niyithande niyikhonze iNkosi. Halleluya, Halleluya

I am, because we are, because God is ...Opening hearts to heal God's world. Amen