



**Brisbane City Temple**  
**10th May 2020**

# Mothers Day

It has been said that this year will be a Mother's Day like no other. Restaurants will not be full of families sharing a meal together and celebrating mum. Many shops have not been open so presents for mum may come via online shopping or in the form of gift cards / vouchers that can be spent at a later date when restrictions are lifted. For some with families living interstate, there will not be a physical visit from children or grandchildren. For many it will look different this year.

This Mother's day, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, let's use the day to reflect on how our mothers shaped our lives and the influence they had on us. May we also reflect on God's amazing love for us and the way he provides and cares for us.

**Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come."**



# Time to Share

As we forge into another week of isolation, I'm wondering if you are feeling 'settled' with your new way of life. I know personally it took me a few weeks to get into the groove of a new weekly routine – working from home, worship via computer, extra daylight to exercise. As I look back I realise that although it hadn't taken me long to settle into this new normal, it had required of me a choice to adjust from what I was accustomed to, and to find peace in the new. Every day, before and during COVID, we make choices. What to eat, when to shop, what to buy, where to go. There are some 'options' that have been taken from us, choices that have been decided on our behalf, but whether we realise it or not, we're still making choices every day. We choose whether to tune in and worship online each Sunday. We choose whether to use this time to better ourselves – taking up a new hobby or restarting an unfinished project (my hand is up). We choose whether to enjoy an outdoor activity or to carve out time for a little physical exercise. We choose if we'll use the gift of 'time' God has given us in this season, for the betterment of our relationship with Him and with those we love.

I acknowledge many of the restrictions have had a great impact on day to day lives. Daily activities and livelihoods have been seriously affected. For some, the mainstay of your existence, both professional, family and in a fellowship sense has brought great loss. At the commencement of the lockdown, there was much talk about 'fear.' I confess I wasn't really 'fearful' of anything. Despite the many ups and downs of my own personal journey, God has been abundantly faithful in His care and provision for me – I've seen who He is and I know who He'll be. I was however conscious of the need to pray for protection – both for physical and economic protection - and to be thankful. Thankful for protection and provision already given, my family, good health, technology, even the welcomed downtime. Lots of downtime. I have a sticky note on my fridge that says "Lord, what would you have me learn about you today?" In my quiet time I was prompted by this question but have turned it around a little to ask "Lord, what would you have me learn in this season?".

I believe that although God doesn't cause all things, He works all things and uses all things to bring about His glory, His Kingdom and His purposes. I would hope that in this season, where He has afforded us this gift of 'time', we wouldn't let that slip by unnoticed, as though a traveller just passing through a subsidiary town. I don't want to just go back to the way things were as if COVID, isolation, 167 shut down, business shut down etc never happened – I don't think we can. I think there's a mandate on us, as the church, to look up, look out, and look around. Take notice. Be attentive. Be alert.

What does this season mean for our today, but moreover, what does it mean for life moving forward? What rhythms do we need to maintain after this? What elements of 'work, rest and play' have we neglected that we're now giving attention to? What parts of life have been forcefully decluttered but need to stay decluttered going forward? What has been thinned in our lives, only to have in fact thickened our communion with Jesus? What lessons is He teaching us today about our very present moment and not the moments of the 'someday'? And are we so concerned about getting to the other side, wanting the doors to re-open, wanting our very comfortable life to return to normal, that we missed it. **We missed the 'good' He was trying to teach us; the golden thread through it all. King David reminds us in Psalm 25: 4-6 (MSG)**

Lord, direct me throughout my journey so I can experience your plans for my life. Reveal the life-paths that are pleasing to you. Escort me along the way; take me by the hand and teach me. For you are the God of my increasing salvation; I have wrapped my heart into yours!

I don't know about you, but I want to, like squeezing out water from a sponge, wring out this season of all of the lessons Jesus has in store for me. Take the time today to ask God 'What do you have for me in this season Lord? What is it you want to teach me?' As we take the time to enjoy life at an easier pace, venture outside, learn a new skill, keep in touch with others, may our first love, our one desire, be to sit at the feet of Jesus, ask questions, and wait on His Word.

Karen

MASTER, speak: they servant heareth, waiting for they gracious word.

Longing for they voice that cheereth; Master, let it now be heard.

I am listening, Lord, for thee; What has thou to say to me?

[SA SB 775]

## THANK YOU

It has been encouraging to hear of people phoning others or sending cards and checking to see how people are coping during this different time. Thank you for caring.

Matt has been a great help in putting together our Sunday meetings – we appreciate your time and willingness to do that each week while also working and looking after a family.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Our weekly sermons and worship service is pre-recorded and available for viewing either from our Corps Facebook page or from our Corps website.

### Links for Viewing

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneCityTemple>

Or you can follow the link on the

**Homepage of the Corps Website:** <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/brisbanecity/>

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Have you thought about how you can continue to give your tithes and offerings during this time where you are not able to physically place them in the offering bag? This is what somebody from our Corps shared during the week

You can make a direct deposit into the Corps Account.

Bank Account details are:

**NAME:** *The Salvation Army BCT* **BSB Number:** 034 004

**Account Number:** 810612

## SATURDAY @ 10AM

A weekly opportunity for women to catch up and encourage each other via zoom. Message Susan on 0438 556 432 for more information on how to connect



**RED  
SHIELD  
APPEAL**

The Salvation Army's response to COVID-19 means traditional face-to-face elements of the Red Shield Appeal will not proceed in 2020, which includes door knocking and community collection points. The Red Shield Appeal will be "revitalised" through new and innovative means such as online fundraising group Raisely.

### We need your help

- Please donate/ fundraise and share our Red Shield page to your social media pages.
- Help us identify a local business/organisation that could make a notable donation and be one of our sponsors listed on the page
- Put us in contact with influencers and contacts you have that could help us fundraise

## National Day of Prayer

Commissioners Robert and Janine Donaldson are calling for a season of prayer across the territory, commencing with a Day of Prayer on **Sunday 17 May** and followed by a 21-day prayer initiative commencing on Pentecost Sunday (31 May)

### On this National Day of Prayer, we are asked to focus on praying for:

- The opportunity to reassess and evaluate the stewardship of resources of The Salvation Army.
- New ways of delivering the God-given mission and the Army's methods to facilitate healthy Christian community.
- New ways of encouraging people in discipleship and faith pathways.

## Spiritual Growth

New this week is the spiritual discipline of **Control of the tongue**. Our words can have either a devastating or encouraging impact on others. Like salt, our words can lose their flavor and become unsavoury and destructive. As disciples of Jesus living the 167, imitating Jesus in what we do and say, our desire is to use words in a way that enhances, builds up and encourages people - transforming people and situations.

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/brisbanecity/spiritual-growth/>

**We have an opportunity to pray for each other during the week.** Marie– Claire's mum who had surgery this week, People who have lost jobs due to closing business, people working on the frontline dealing with Corona Virus, People who have lost family members, People who are experiencing anxiety and mental health issues, Teachers and Children who returned to school.

**Praying for each other:** Aaron, Nat & Cooper, Kerrod, Jacinta, Oliver & Samuel, Ryan, Stephanie, Stephen & Judith, Jill, Greg.



### *Our National Vision*

Wherever there is hardship or injustice  
Salvos will live, love and fight  
Alongside others  
To transform Australia one life at time  
With the love of Jesus