

SERMON NOTES Sunday 5 October

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Psalm 100 and Philippians 4.4-9

Introduction

- Harvest an opportunity to remember all who enable us to have food and give thanks
- Harvest also reminds us of our need for God (as does baptism)

Philippians 4.4-9

1. **Call to rejoice:** not dependent on our circumstances but because the Lord is near. We do not need to be anxious but can know God's amazing peace.
2. **Reminder to pray:** prayer is conversation with God; it sustains and deepens our relationship with him. It begins with thanksgiving and then moves to petitions.
3. **God's peace:** this runs through the passage. The peace we can enjoy is more than a lack of war; it comes from our relationship with God and following Jesus' example of how to live.

Conclusion

Baptism is not a one-off event but a way of living. Jesus invites all people to follow him in a life-long journey of faith in which we will experience his peace because of his presence with us and share his love with his world.

Some questions to discuss

1. What does Harvest mean to you?
2. Read Philippians 4.4-9. What do you notice?
3. Paul calls us to rejoice in all circumstances. Can you think of times when remembering that God was with you changed how you felt about a situation?
4. Read Psalm 100. In what ways does this help you think about some of the reasons you have to rejoice, whatever your circumstances?
5. Why does Paul tell us to respond to every situation with prayer, petition and thanksgiving? Has this been your experience?
6. The promise of God's peace flows through the passage from Philippians. In what ways do these verses deepen your understanding of that peace?
7. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

And the God of peace will be with you. (Phil 4.9)

Why not spend some time thanking God for his peace and praying for those who need to experience more of his peace today?

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