

Mosaic 2: Kaleidoscope!

How are you going? How are you finding your worship and prayer life right now, in the middle of 2020?

Has the challenge of change worn you down? Are you fed up with worship at home and on-line services, with no personal contact? Or are you feeling refreshed and excited by the new ways you have been encountering God through creative worship and prayer opportunities you have discovered?

Quite a few of us will be feeling a mixture of these two extremes. If you *are* struggling please get in touch, off-load, and have a chat. Or maybe you have comments, ideas and feedback about church, worship and moving forward? Please share them. Phone, email or meet up with a leader.

And do pray. This is a time to talk to God, and especially to listen to him. More than anything else as we transition through and beyond COVID19 restrictions, we need to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding us through the Word, through prayer and through one another. Jesus speaks afresh to us day by day, and in each generation, both personally and as his Church.

Although change has come upon us, and we may grieve the loss of some familiar ways, thriving in the future will require us to adapt and grow with the changes, so let us seek God's voice for today and not default to the limits of what worked in the past.

Living God, take us beyond those limitations – and, along with your comfort and encouragement - empower, embolden, and equip us with your 2020 vision. Jesus, may we hear your voice and follow you.

Lord, take your scattered people and form us into church as you would have us now. Let us not be bound to one prescribed format, cemented into obsolete moulds, or imprisoned by our own methods and traditions.

Prayerfully reflect on this passage from Matthew's Gospel. Listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you:

“ Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:14-16 (MSG)

- What is Jesus saying about his purpose for his Church and his calling to you?
- If this is one description of God's vision for his people, how does it apply right now in 2020?
- Consider if God has turned around a bad situation (COVID19, church buildings being closed) and is bringing good from it by placing his light-bearers, on *many* light-stands, on *many* hilltops, dotted all over the community - for *many* to see?
- Ponder on if/how he might want to grow his kingdom by continuing to work with us in this way
- Reflect on the picture of coloured pieces in a kaleidoscope, on the next page.
- What might it suggest about being Church and about God's kingdom?
- Write your own prayer for the church in your journal.



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Lord, gently re-form us so that we don't fall into ruts of inertia and complacency. Let your body, the church, be so filled with the vibrant light of your life that we may be free and flexible – open to your leading and your on-going shaping of us according to your purposes and timing.

Father, I see your people sprinkled throughout the community in sparkling new shades of colour and design. I see variety and interchange, creativity, and innovation. Jesus, continue to re-create your church and infuse us with the changing light and movement of the Holy Spirit's activity.

Let us be like pieces of mosaic, held loose in your kingdom's kaleidoscope, and made beautiful anew with each reviving turn of your hand. Amen



God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams!

He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes! **Eph 3:20-21 (MSG)**