

Dear Friend

Friday already – where has this week gone?

I don't know about you, but with lockdown (or what remains of it) it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep tabs on what day it is. I wake up in the morning and have to really think about it. And yes, I know, I am getting older and maybe it just goes with the territory!

There have been times when, to continue my 'film' theme from last Friday, it feels like Groundhog Day – constant repetition and no moving forward. Now, however, things seem to be changing by the day as lockdown eases and as people start to get back to work as well as many other things like shopping, hairdressers, pubs and restaurants, gyms, swimming pools and all the other parts of life that were missing for so many months. For some of us, it will take much longer to start to use these things again.

Change, of course, is something that can be difficult to deal with – it can be overwhelming and confusing. God does not change, we are told that in James 1:17 –

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Whatever else is changing in our lives, we can be reassured that the God who created us and who loves us will always be there for us. And God is there, unchanged, for a reason. Malachi 3:6 tells us –

For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

In order that we should not feel overcome with whatever is going on in our lives, the God who made us who we are will always be there. That is quite comforting when I wake up in the morning and am unsure if it is Wednesday or Thursday! And whilst it does indeed matter that I get my head around it and find out which day it is, the comfort blanket, if you like, of God remaining unchanged in order that I may not be afraid of my memory lapses is indeed one of the things that helps me through that momentary lapse and encourages me to carry on.

So yes, there are huge challenges to us at the moment and daily life is often not easy. But the unchanging God we know and love, and who loves us, is there to ensure that we can survive this difficult time. That is the promise made to us. As you approach this weekend, when some of us will be able to join in with worship in person at the church and others will watch online and worship in the privacy of our own homes, remember that God is with you, there for you, supporting and comforting you.

May your day be blessed with peace in your heart.

Linda