

Celebration **TIMES**

Issue 395

WWW.CELEBRATIONCHURCHBARRIE.CA

July 29 2018



Join the Celebration



We welcome all visitors and newcomers who have come to join us as we praise and worship, pray and give thanks, and learn about the word of God in our service today.

Feel free to meet with us in a time of fellowship and coffee after the service.

Affiliated with:



MARION O'BRIEN on Psalm 91

- on behalf of Pastor PETER WILLIAMS

Psalm 91 is one of my favourite psalms. In my Bible (NLT), I have scratched out “your” and put “my” and “you” and put “me.” It makes it personal for me and reminds me that God is my refuge, rescuer, protector, shelter and my God.

The other night when I couldn't sleep, I did what I usually do. I read my Bible. I felt really led to pray for Peter so I said it aloud – so important – and substituted Peter's name in Psalm 91.

“When two or three are gathered in His name.....” We may not be together physically but we are together in Spirit.

Also, others can learn to put themselves or a family member, etc. in the psalms. I am so looking forward to this series.

Thank you for all the research and caring you do for us. God Bless you.
p.s. This is just one of the Psalms that touches me.

A Paraphrase of Psalm 91 for Pastor Peter, One of God's Shepherds.

Those who live in the shadow of the Most High Will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is PETER'S REFUGE, his place of SAFETY; He is PETER'S GOD, And PETER TRUSTS HIM. For He will RESCUE PETER from every trap and PROTECT PETER from deadly disease. He will COVER PETER with His feathers. He will SHELTER PETER with His wings. His faithful promises are PETER'S ARMOUR and PROTECTION.

PETER WILL NOT BE AFRAID of the terrors of night, Nor the arrow that flies in the day. PETER WILL NOT DREAD the disease that stalks in darkness, Nor the disaster that strikes at midday. Though a thousand fall at PETER'S side, Though 10,000 are dying around PETER, THOSE EVILS WILL NOT TOUCH PETER. Just OPEN PETER'S EYES, And see how the wicked are punished.

If PETER MAKES the LORD HIS REFUGE, If PETER MAKES the MOST HIGH HIS SHELTER, NO EVIL WILL CONQUER HIM; NO PLAGUE WILL COME NEAR HIS HOUSE. For He will ORDER HIS ANGELS To PROTECT PETER wherever he goes. They will HOLD PETER UP with their hands. PETER won't even hurt his foot on a stone. PETER WILL TRAMPLE upon lions and cobras; PETER WILL CRUSH fierce lions and serpents under his feet.

The Lord says, "I will RESCUE PETER WHO LOVES ME. I will PROTECT PETER WHO TRUSTS IN MY NAME. When PETER CALLS ON ME, I will ANSWER HIM. GOD IS WITH PETER IN THIS TIME OF TROUBLE. I Will RESCUE PETER AND HONOUR HIM. I Will REWARD PETER WITH A LONG LIFE. I WILL GIVE PETER MY SALVATION.

Psalms -- Songs from the Heart -- this Summer

Our summer sermon series is on the Psalms. The Psalms have been called the prayer book of Israel and the hymn book of the Church. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is designed so that the Psalms are read through every month. Many of you grew up singing the psalms in Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Psalms have been so enduring and popular because they are the doctrines of the faith set to poetry. If books of the Bible such as Deuteronomy and Romans lay out the faith systematically the Psalms do so in poetry.

The Psalms express the feelings of the believer in every season of life. If you are in the depths of despair, in the heights of joy, or in the darkness of grief there are Psalms to express your feelings. When words fail you and you don't know how to pray the Psalms are there to give voice to your feelings as you pour out your heart to God.

Each Sunday through the summer we will be preaching on one of the Psalms. Our thanks to those who have sent in an email to let us know your favourite Psalm and when in your life it spoke to you. Read a few of these reflections below.

July 8th -- Psalm 1 -- Pastor Brian

July 15th -- Psalm 19 -- Pastor Buzz

July 22nd -- Psalm 51 -- Jim & Nancy Mitchell

July 29th -- Psalm 121 -- Pastor Paul



ANNE HARRISON on Psalms 142 and 139

When I first moved to Barrie I was in great distress. My marriage was over, and with it my life savings had been lost and I was in deep debt. I had to move here because I had a contract as a teacher with Simcoe County and I needed to go to where the job was in order to support my kids. I had a 4 year old and a 2 year old, no support from their dad, some acquaintances, but no family or friends in Barrie. My 2 year old was a very difficult child and I was back and forth to social agencies in Barrie for help many evenings. Teaching Special Ed. all day, picking up my kids from the sitter's and coming home to care for them and then sit with my schoolwork at night, I was extremely overwhelmed. Although I badly wanted to, I couldn't even attend women's bible study at church because there was no babysitting and I couldn't leave my kids. Every extra penny had to go into paying off the large debt from my marriage. There was no break and no one to turn to as I had my kids 24/7/52

I saw others who were couples and who could spell off each other, and I saw single parents who had family to give them relief, cook for them, baby sit for them, help them around the house, even visit and chat with them. I knew no one and my only relief came if I took my kids to my mom in Oakville, but then I had to listen to her problems and do things for her and support her. It seemed that there was absolutely no one there for me. I was also grappling with ADD and finding that teaching was too difficult for me but I had no choice but to continue.

I think that I wrote Psalm 142! Not David. That psalm in some sad way gave me comfort for a short while. It gave words to my despondency, and it was some consolation that someone else had felt like that. But I soon knew that I couldn't dwell on this any more, although it was initially a blessing, it didn't lift me up. Why was I having to go through all this? What had I done to deserve this oh God? God, where are you in my life? That little poem about not having time to pray seemed so true to me. Were my prayers in the car, or as I fell asleep, enough? Did God know my heart?

One day I read psalm 139 again and it spoke so strongly to me. He has examined my heart! He does know everything about me! He goes before me and He places a hand of blessing on my head. He is the one who knit me together in my mother's womb. Despite all the stress and turmoil, He knows my anxious thoughts and He knows my heart. I prayed for Him to soften my heart towards the many people who heard my plea but just seemed to walk through my life without helping me shoulder some of my burden. I was so tired of whining and asking of others, yet not being able to give back in return. Why was I so alone and why had everything gone so horribly wrong? I asked Him to point out anything in me that was offensive to Him. I claimed that psalm and on many days I truly felt it, and Him, carry me and lift me. There is no room for self-pity if you are so special to God. No matter what I was doing or how lonely I felt I began to claim the fact that I could never be far from God's presence.

There Barrie County Chordsmen Presents:

Cruisin' with the Chordsmen

Featuring... The Barrie County Chordsmen and special guests "Cruisin"! Mark your calendars now! This event takes place on Saturday September 29th at 2 pm @ Hi-Way Church - 50 Anne Street North, Barrie. Adults tickets are \$25, Students are \$10. For Tickets & Info see Wally, or you can call 705-309-0907 or visit www.barriecountychordsmen.com.



Celebration Church

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. at:

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Barrie, Ontario



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www.celebrationchurchbarrie.ca/sermons/