

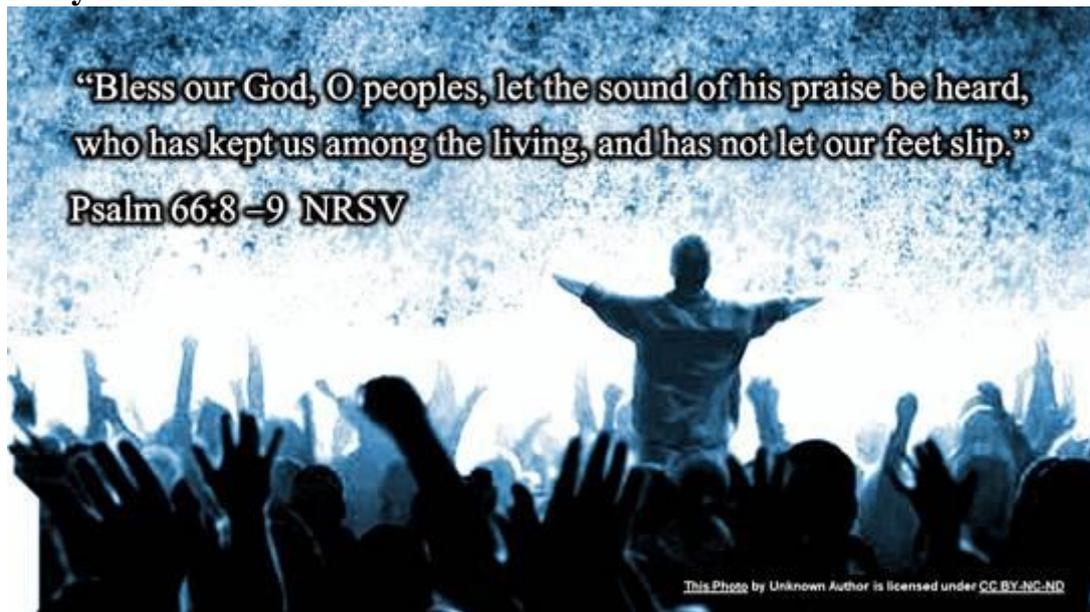
Dear Ipswich City Church family

Prayer

In my daily reflection today I suggest that today would be a great day to praise God. We still have a way to go. If people break discipline the virus could still surge. BUT it seems over the last week or two that the dawn may have broken. At least one of the reasons that we have so effectively dealt with the virus is that we are made in God's image as social and co-operative beings. With the illness that is so devastating the Koala population of Australia the Koalas do not know to socially isolate. They continue to mix and spread the disease among themselves. God has always been Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three and yet one because the Father, the Son and the Spirit are so closely connected in a mutual relationship of love that they cannot be separated.

This ability to creatively cooperate has made us the most constructive (and destructive) species on the planet. We should give all thanks and praise to God that this is so, and for the way this has kept so many of us safe.

Daily Reflection



"Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip." (Psalm 66:8–9, NRSV)

As the corona virus threat reduces (but does not go away) in many countries and as restrictions begin to lift in Australia, we can give all thanks and praise to God that he has kept not just us but millions across the globe in the land of the living. There are even signs that developing and highly populated countries like India could have much lower death tolls than we feared they might have. We have been born at a time when we have never been better able to respond to

a pandemic. We may be sinners, we may have gone mad over a perceived lack of toilet paper, but we are still also made in the image of God. Our governments have acted strongly and swiftly, and our people have mostly stayed at home and kept their distance. We have done our bit to keep most others and ourselves safe.

The Psalms were written in and reflect the history of Israel. Israel experienced slavery in Egypt, Exile in Babylon, defeat in war, and like all of us suffering and death from illness. They also experienced victory, deliverance, and healing from, and in, sickness, war, slavery, and exile. When they did, they came to God in praise. This too should be our response. The threat and the fight are not over but (please God) it seems the dawn has broken and so we bring our praise.

Lord our God, we praise you among the people and call the world and all creation to praise you for you have kept us among the living and not let us fall. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Yours in Jesus

Andrew

Rev. Andrew Gillies