

Dear Ipswich City church family,

**Keep praying and loving**

Keep up the contact by phone, email, facebook and of course prayer!

**Daily Reflection.**



Psalm 118:1 (NRSV): *1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His steadfast love endures forever!*

A few days ago I reflected on God's loving kindness (steadfast love) showed to the people of Israel in their history. Psalm 118 celebrates God's steadfast love and also calls on God to bring salvation or victory. Sometimes this psalm will have been read when going to the Temple as a pilgrim. Sometimes this psalm will have been read in a time of war or trouble. A time like our time as we face the Corona virus. Sometimes it will have been read in a time when victory or salvation has come, as a celebration. No matter the circumstances we can give thanks for God's steadfast love toward us. We see it in the History of Israel from Abraham and Sarah all the way to Ezra and Nehemiah. We see it in the life, teaching, cross and new life of Jesus. In the history of the church we have seen it in Acts, in the abolition of slavery, the end of killing in the Colosseum and in many other thing. In our own lives we have seen God's steadfast love at work.

This attitude of thanksgiving is very practical. It builds hope, brings courage, encourages generosity and, in in a good way, can be infectious. Others whose lives we touch can be encouraged, emboldened, more generous and more hopeful because of us.

*Lord we are thankful for your steadfast love, for all your loving kindness to us. We give thanks for saving and preserving your people down through the ages. We especially give thanks for Jesus and we give thanks for our personal experiences of*

*your loving kindness. From our thanksgiving grow hope, generously, and courage not only in us but in all the world. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

Yours in Jesus

Andrew

Rev. Andrew Gillies