



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

**Reading:** Romans 12:12

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Reflection:**

This coming Sunday we'll be singing a brand new hymn. It was written by the well know composer and theologian John Bell. John is a Scottish hymn-writer and a minister in the Church of Scotland. He is also a member of the Iona Community who have produced many helpful prayers and reflections during the Covid pandemic. Entitled "We will meet," the first verse has the following words:

We will meet when the danger is over,  
we will meet when the sad days are done;  
we will meet sitting closely together  
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

**The Revd John Proctor, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church (URC), makes the following statement after Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister, announced the easing of an array of lockdown restrictions.**

*"The Prime Minister spoke today (23 June) about the relaxation of a number of Covid-related restrictions in England, from 4 July. The restoration of church worship, although without singing, is reportedly one of these. Many URC congregations will want to think carefully about how to respond to this possibility. We rejoice when we can worship together. Yet haste could lead to mistakes and danger."*

These are going to be uneasy times as we begin the process of discerning what we may and may not do. Of course part of me would want us to be able to meet together as soon as we are able, however we should be extremely careful to weigh up all the options before making any decisions about gathered worship. Restrictions may be lifted, but Covid will still be around for some time to come!

Of course, we will keep everyone well informed over the coming weeks and months, and will continue to provided worship and regular devotions in the way we are doing. The day will come when we will be able to meet together, and what a joyous day that will be! Until then, let us take heed of Pauls words to the Romans: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Breath-Prayer for Today:** Thank you Lord for the assurance of your presence during this time. Help us all to lean on you more and more so that we can be sustained and encouraged for the future!

