



# Growing Faith

## 12 - Summer | 18 July 2022

## Purpose Through Chaos

Written by Fr Andrew

Today I am preparing for spirituality week and considering the theme 'Purpose Through Chaos.' Jesus said:

**“I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”**

John 16: 33 NRSVA

Imagine the scene. It was Friday of Passover week. It should have been a time of great joy, Jews gathering in the great city of Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. But for Jesus' disciples, there was no joy. They were full of sorrow. They were confused and scared. They had followed Jesus, believing he was the Messiah, the son of God. The previous night's events did not fit into their idea of what a leader is like. Jesus had taught them many times about what would happen, but they still struggled with it. It was Friday (Good Friday), filled with sorrow and chaos; their world had been turned upside down.

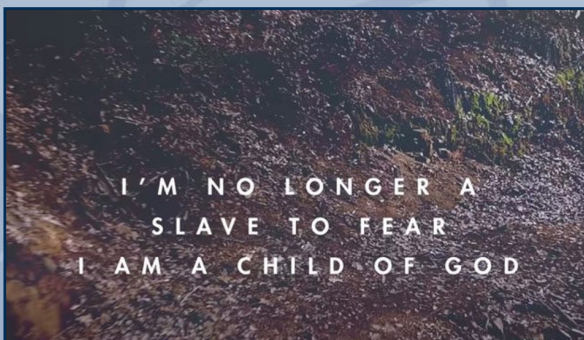
How could they begin comprehending all the events that unfolded so quickly? Judas, once their trusted companion, had led the mob sent by the chief priests to arrest Jesus. When Peter sought to defend Jesus with his small sword, Jesus rebuked him and had him put his sword away. Their leader and friend had been arrested.

Then, the worst of all, Jesus is put to death. All the disciples except John had fled and were in hiding. It was Friday, and the disciples were full of sorrow. But the story did not end on Friday. Though the disciples were in despair, Jesus had prepared them for the coming of the first day of the week. Yes, they had present sorrows but would have future joy and purpose.

Jesus had been direct with them about the future, both the positive and the negative. They would have sorrow, and there would be good reason for that, but they would come through the chaos to know his joy and purpose for them. The same, I believe, is still true today. The Christian life is not a bed of rose petals. There are many thorns. There are times of chaos in our lives that shake us to breaking point. In those moments, we can turn to prayer, a faithful God, a God of truth and love. We are fully known intimately and loved. Christ has overcome the world and enables us to do so with the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter.

I don't know what's going on in your life. Perhaps things are going well right now. If so, be thankful. Maybe you are in a phase of chaos, and life is tough for various reasons. Look and pray to Jesus. He has already overcome the world. His promises are true. He has also sent the Holy Spirit to be with us so that we might be strengthened and led out of the chaos into the light of the resurrection with joy and purpose. Christians live in a promise for the future that is sure and wonderful. Keep your eyes upon Jesus. It was Friday, and everything was confusing and depressing for the disciples. Sunday was coming, and with it, the resurrection of Jesus. If you feel like it is Friday in your life, take courage, Sunday is coming. Jesus keeps his promises.

## Song for the Reflection



Sing along or sit and reflect as we worship together with 'No Longer Slaves' by Zach William

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”**

James 1:2-4

## Teen Tip

By Daniel Ley, Year 10:

**“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”**

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

**“Life can be messy. Things go wrong and people get hurt. Throughout all that, Jesus promises to always be with you. More than that, he promises that he will never leave you or forsake you.”**

Hebrews 13:5

Things are always going to go wrong in life, but if you love God and find purpose in him, the bad things are used for good.

Over the summer, remember that whatever happens, God still loves you.

## Church Support

## Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

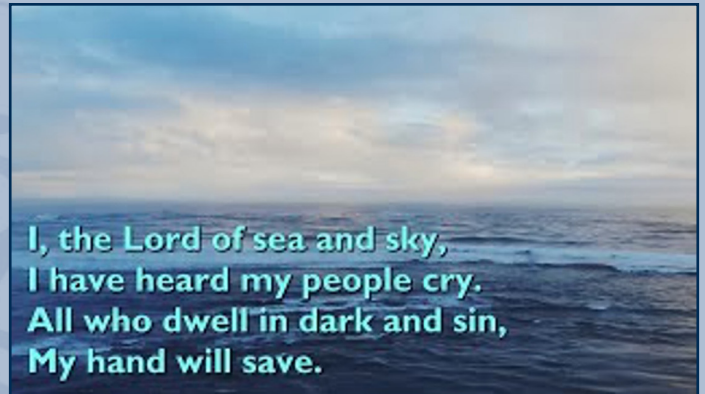
St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

## School Song

Sing along to 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky'  
as we worship together.



## A Prayer

Written by Lilliana Ismail, Worship Co-Ordinator

Dear God,

We pray that you would remind us that that we are all a part of building and expanding your Kingdom.

We ask that you give us a fresh vision for your purpose for our lives. We ask that you open our eyes, our ears, our hearts, and our minds to your vision so that we can live out our purpose. Remove anything from our lives that distracts us from you. We pray that you would draw us closer to you as you reveal our purpose to us. We trust that you have our future planned out and your wisdom will guide us there.

In Jesus' Name,

**Amen**

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)


Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

St Mary Magdalen's Church, Accrington: [Website](#) / [Facebook Page](#)

St Andrew's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

St Peter's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)



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