

# Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE  
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY



## Romans 5:1-11

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## COLLECT

Almighty God, whose  
Son Jesus Christ  
gives the water of  
eternal life, may we  
always thirst for you,  
the spring of life and  
source of goodness;  
through him who  
lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now  
and for ever.  
Amen.



Hemryk Siemiradski (1843-1902) *Christ and the Samaritan Woman*, Lviv Art Gallery, Ukraine.

*“All doors are open to the believer. It is the lesson of the Samaritan woman at the well.” — Patti Smith*

*“Aliveness, he will teach, is a gift available to all by God's grace. It flows not from taking, but giving, not from fear but from faith, not from conflict but from reconciliation, not from domination but from service. It isn't found in the upper trappings of religion -rules and rituals, controversies and scruples, temples and traditions. No, it springs up from our innermost being like a fountain of living water. It intoxicates us like the best wine ever and so turns life from disappointment into a banquet.” — Brian D. McLaren*

The passage from Romans speaks about how through faith we are made righteous/upstanding with God. We gain peace and the hope of sharing God's glory. This hope is affirmed through God's love through the Holy Spirit and shown in Christ's death for humanity.

This passage has inspired hymns and worship songs about faith and what people's faith stands on. These include *On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand*, *By Faith* and *Cornerstone*.

Today you're invited to consider what the key foundations of your faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit are. You may wish to write these down, perhaps write a poem or hymn of your own.

***On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand (Hymn)*** by Edward Mote (excerpt)

I My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain:*

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.

To Listen:

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less by Edward Mote/Martin Luther  
*Cornerstone* by Hillsong Worship