November 2022

Dear Friends,

It is said that a week is a long time in politics… It seems that a day, or maybe even an hour, is a long time just now. We are living in turbulent and uncertain times. I’m writing this letter after Liz Truss’ resignation and when only one person has formally declared that they intend to stand for the leadership of the party. By the time you read this in just over a week’s time, we will (according to the news at the moment) have our third Prime Minister in a couple of months. However, who knows!

It is at times like this that we are reminded in the news once again of Larry the cat. Larry is the Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office who resides at 10 Downing Street. According to the Downing Street website his job description is as follows: *“Larry spends his days greeting guests to the house, inspecting security defences and testing antique furniture for napping quality. His day-to-day responsibilities also include contemplating a solution to the mouse occupancy of the house. Larry says this is still ‘in tactical planning stage’.”* Larry changes his allegiance from one Prime Minister to another, as is required but without fuss and this doesn’t make the headlines. The only time Larry is referred to is on these occasions of transition between one Prime Minister and another. It is almost as if he is seen as the constant presence between one era and the next.

It is entirely natural to seek a constant presence, especially in a time of turmoil. As Christians, we look to the presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit who is always with us. We are reminded in the book of Hebrews that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. We can trust in Jesus’ constant character, who is there showing love and grace to all people and who is welcoming to everyone.

Jesus does not change his allegiance from one day to another. He was born, died and raised again to bring new life and freedom for everyone. Jesus is the one who reconciles the world to God through himself and who is active in the world today through the Holy Spirit. As Jesus’ disciples today we should be actively promoting the unity that is promised through Christ. This may involve us speaking up for others, or seeking a middle way, to enable a sense of peace and unity to be brought.

November is often seen as a month of remembering. We remember the past, the wars and conflicts there have been, and we pray for peace. In doing this, we are seeking for God’s Kingdom to come, as we pray in the Lord’s Prayer. As we enter a new month, with all the change and turmoil of the month just past, let’s pray for peace, unity, and reconciliation within the world. We turn to God, who is the constant in our lives, communities and world, and whose Kingdom will come, as we are promised.

God bless,

Chris