**Friday 1st**

Dear Lord help us to discover again the old paths that are the foundations of our faith.

**Saturday 2nd**

Eph 2 v 20

Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

 *Thank you Father for the pedigree of our faith. Amen*

**Sunday 3rd**

Some great hymns have been written concerning the basis of our faith. The 7th century hymn ‘Christ is made our sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one; Holy Zion’s help for ever is her confidence alone’.

*Because of this truth one can pray with confidence knowing that God will hear us.*

**Monday 4th**

Continuing the basis of our faith in hymns, another 18th Century hymn by G Keith – ‘ How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord is laid for your faith in His excellent word; what more can he say than to you He has said, to all who for refuge to Jesus have fled.’

*The whole hymn is based on our dependence on God’s help throughout the trials of life.*

*Lord, Thank you for being our refuge.*

**Tuesday 5th**

St Paul writes to Christians in Corinth. 1 Cor 3 v 10 – 11 ‘ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another builds on it, but let each one take heed how they build on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid which is Jesus Christ’.

*Lord, Help us not to trust in any other name than you.*

**Wednesday 6th**

Our faith is also based on God’s power in creation of the world. Job 38 – God asks Job a question in verse 4. ‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding. Who determined its measurement? Surely you know, or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?’

*Thank you Lord for the wonders of your creation. Help us to consider afresh all of your creative work. Amen*

**Thursday 7th**

Continuing on the theme of creation and the steadfastness of God. Psalm 102 vs 25 -27 – ‘Of old you laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish but you will endure –they will be changed but you are the same and your years will have no end’.

*We pray to this God who sustains His creation and also sustains us in all of life’s experiences.*

**Friday 8th**

Another hymn which is often sung at a funeral, but is essential to our faith, is Toplady’s famous hymn ‘Rock of Ages’ said to have been written whilst sheltering from a storm in the cleft of a rock.

‘Rock of ages cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and power’.

**Saturday 9th**

Our Father is an everlasting foundation. Proverbs 10 v 25 – When the whirlwind passes by the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

*Thank you Lord that when evil seems to prevail that we are reminded that our faith has an everlasting foundation.*

**Sunday 10th**

Our foundation is a tried and tested stone – Isaiah says ‘Thus says the Lord God: Behold I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone; a precious cornerstone; a sure foundation. Whoever believes will not act hastily.’

*Save us from acting hastily so that our trust is taken away from that tried and precious foundation stone. Amen*

**Monday 11th**

God’s love for us is mirrored in Christ’s love for us in His prayer. John 17 v 24. ‘Father I desire that they also, whom you gave me, may be with me where I am’.

*With our finite minds we cannot understand the words of Jesus, simply to say His love is an everlasting love.*

**Tuesday 12th**

Rock or sand, hearing and doing Luke 6. ‘ Whoever comes to me, says Jesus, hears my sayings and does them , I will show you who they are like; they are like someone who is building a house and digs deep and lays the foundation on a rock and, because it is built on a solid rock foundation, can with stand the storm; it cannot be shaken.’

*A chorus that used to be sung was – ‘Build on the rock and not upon the sand’.*

**Wednesday 13th**

Another old hymn by E Moat ‘My hope is built on nothing less than Jesu’s blood and righteousness, I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesu’s name.’

*Father, we thank you for that solid rock of Jesus. Amen*

**Thursday 14th**

Psalm 62 talks about waiting for God’s help. Verse 1 ‘My soul silently waits for God, He only is my rock and my salvation’.

 *Three times David mentions God as His rock and verse 8 tells us to trust Him at all times, to pour out our hearts before Him, because God is a refuge for us.*

**Friday 15th**

Paraphrase of 1 Tim 6 vrs 17 – 19 The responsibility for every Christian, not to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy. That we should be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share**.**

*Lord show us our responsibility in good works, in giving and in sharing. Amen*

**Saturday 16th**

This is the halfway point of July. Consideration has been made concerning the basis of the Christian Faith. The culmination of our faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Thank you Lord for that resurrection life and promise of hope in you. Amen*

**Sunday 17th**

The Christian Faith is not static and the writer the Hebrews urges us into deeper waters.

Hebrews 6 v 1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity. Not as babies requiring any milk but mature in our faith in the study of God’s word and spiritual meat.

*Thank you Lord for the bible, your inspired word, to help us to grow to maturity our faith. Amen*

**Churches Together in Fordingbridge and area**

**PRAYER LINK**

**July 2022**

**‘BACK TO BASICS’ our sure foundation.**

One of our recent Prime Ministers said ‘We must get back to basics’.

As Christians we must get back to the basics of the Christian faith’ – Jeremiah 16 v 6

Thus says the Lord:

‘Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths where the good way is and walk in it.’

**Prepared by**

**Peter, a member of**

**Fordingbridge United Reformed Church**

 **Monday 18th**

The church, the family of God. 1 Tim 3 v15 talks about the church, the body of Christ, that we should know how to conduct ourselves in the house of God, which is the church of the living God and the pillar and ground of truth.

*Lord, Grant us to be an example to others, showing respect and reverence in your house. Amen*

**Tuesday 19th**

Counting the cost Luke 14 v 27. The Christian faith requires perseverance and not giving in. Jesus said ‘Whoever does not bear their cross and come after me cannot be my disciple’.

*Dear Lord, Help us daily to bear whatever cross we have in order to follow you more closely.*

**Wednesday 20th**

Walking in wisdom with those who have no faith. St Paul said ‘Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside (the faith). Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

*Father, grant us wisdom to be gracious with the right amount of salt.*

**Thursday 21st**

*Another part of our journey in the faith is prayer. Consider the words of the model prayer set by Jesus and pause on each line so familiar and yet so profound.*

*Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed is Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses; as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*

**Friday 22nd**

Prayer is an essential walk of faith. Jesus said ‘We should always pray and not give up’. Luke 18 v 1.

*Sometimes it feels as if our prayers are not answered but prayer sometimes needs perseverance. Lord, help us to persevere in prayer.*

**Saturday 23rd**

Most of our prayers are made in private and Jesus often went alone to pray to His heavenly Father and in Matt 6 v 6 He said ‘ When you pray go to your room, shut the door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly’.

**Sunday 24th**

Praying in God’s house. Personal prayer and secret prayer are part of the Christian’s walk of faith, but corporate prayer as part of our worship can be a blessing to all.

*Lord help us to feel your presence as we pray corporately in your house. Amen*

**Monday 25th**

Praying for one another. St Paul says 1 Thes 5 v 25 ‘Brothers and sisters pray for us’ and the same request in 2 Thes 3 v1. Finally he says ‘Pray for us’ It is an important part of growing in our faith to pray for one another. James 5 v16 says ‘ Pray for one another that you may be healed. The effect of fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much’.

**Tuesday 26th**

Prayers for our world; that we should ensure good stewardship of the planet in all its frailty and yet its beauty seen in all creation.

*Lord help us to be good stewards of your world and forgive us for taking so much for granted. Amen*

**Wednesday 27th**

We pray for our troubled world, particularly for the people and nation of Ukraine.

*Lord in your mercy sustain those suffering as a result of war and bring peace and consolation to the innocent people of Ukraine.**Amen*

**Thursday 28th**

Our prayers should also include all in authority, leaders and governments 1 Tim 2 v 1. Prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be for all; for kings and all in authority, that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

*Father we pray for those who have authority and government under You; to act honestly and without prejudice to all who live under their rule. Amen*

**Friday 29th**

Our responsibility towards those who suffer persecution for being a Christian.

*Dear Lord, we especially pray for our Christian brothers and sisters who suffer persecution simply for having faith in You. We thank you for missions like Barnabas Aid, Open Doors and others who can give practical aid to those in desperate need. Amen.*

**Saturday 30th**

As part of the body of Christ we remember in our prayers the various churches in Churches Together in the Fordingbridge Area.

 *Our Father we pray for each church and fellowship and especially bring those who have responsibility for leadership, that they may know your wisdom and guidance as they seek the welfare of those in their charge. Amen*

**Sunday 31st**

It is appropriate on this day to celebrate the foundation of the Christian faith and to remind ourselves again of the basis of that faith that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again, for our justification. By placing our trust in Him we can know forgiveness.

*Thank you Jesus for that living faith given to us by Your death on the cross and for your rising from death to give us life eternal. Amen*.