

GO OUT!

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

Isaiah 55:12

REFLECTION

"You shall go out": What an ironic phrase to read amidst an ongoing pandemic. These days, we're told **not** to go out of our houses, but instead to stay and work from home as much as possible. And when we do have to go out, it is not quite "with joy" as the passage states, but perhaps more with a sense of "heightened alertness" (pun intended) or of mild unease.

Don't we look forward to that day when this dreadful pandemic ends and we can in fact go out from our homes with joy, go forth into public spaces in peace and without fear?

This longing we feel, this pent-up anticipation we experience during this season, is a good analogy to our hope for Christ's second coming. Don't we long for that day when God renews his creation? Don't we look forward to that day when God Himself will dwell with us, when He will wipe away all our tears, when death, mourning, crying, pain shall be no more (Rev 21:3-4)?

Isaiah promises that we will go out, because something else has first gone forth. The preceding verse is well-known: "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa 55:11).

We can look forward to going out with joy because we are assured that God's Word has first gone out from Him. God's Word does not fail but will accomplish all His divine purpose.

And so we look to God's living Word – Jesus Christ – who has gone out from heaven to fulfill the divine plan of salvation and redemption. Thanks be to God, that because of Jesus Christ, we will indeed "go out in joy and be led forth in peace!"

PRAYER

Lord God, thank You for reminding us through our present circumstances how much we long to go out – to go out in joy and in peace. As we reflect on our physical situation, please open our spiritual eyes that we may always look forward with hope and longing toward Your coming new creation. Thank You that Your Word does not return to You empty, but will always accomplish Your good purpose. Thank You for the promise that we can go forth in hope, because Your living Word has gone out to bring healing, deliverance, and salvation. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray that, in a world of many attractions and distractions, God will help you find your true satisfaction in Him above all else. Ask God to fix our longings and desires on Him, who is our true joy and peace.
- Pray for those who are struggling with isolation or loneliness during this season of heightened restrictions. Ask God to show you wise and creative ways to reach out and care for them.
- Pray for those who are feeling disheartened and discouraged. Ask the Lord to bring assurance and confidence through His Word that is not void and does not fail. Pray that they may be strengthened in their inner being.
- Pray for family, friends, classmates, or colleagues whose hearts have strayed from God or become hardened to His Word. Ask the Lord to soften and renew their hearts and turn these individuals back to Himself.

*And I said to the man
who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may
tread safely into the unknown."*

And he replied:

*"Go out into the darkness and
put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than
light and safer than a known way."*

- Minnie Louise Haskins, "God Knows"

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

Email: wecare@brmc.org.sg

Contact: 6592 4011 or 6592 4012