

## God is not distant!



***Social distancing***, a concept that no one can escape from, our new norm. Like me, some of you might be finding it difficult to keep two metres apart from others outside your home (unless you've now formed a bubble!).

I'm really missing my Dads tight squeezes in particular, and it goes against my natural instincts not to greet my loved ones with a hug. And not forgetting the ongoing challenge of working at the Hospital whilst also trying to social distance.

As well as feeling physically distant from friends and family, I know at times I've also felt spiritually distant from God.

I'm missing physical Church, Church family and worshipping together. During these times of uncertainty I've felt fear, worry and inadequacy at times, all clouding my reassurance in God's faithfulness and hope.



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and worshipping together!**

But I know that these are the feelings I should be taking to God, for him to use, for me to learn and to change. No situation is wasted with God. I'm learning to lean on him and stand firm in His promise not to leave me or forsake me.

## Meditate on Psalm 145, focussing particularly on v: 18!

<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. <sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. <sup>4</sup> One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. <sup>6</sup> They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. <sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. <sup>10</sup> All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. <sup>11</sup> They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, <sup>12</sup> so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. <sup>16</sup> You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. <sup>18</sup> ***The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*** <sup>19</sup> He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. <sup>20</sup> The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup> My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

### Questions:

Do you miss attending a physical church? How can we keep the unity of our church family strong even whilst we are apart?

Do you have any fears and worries that affect *your* spiritual life in a negative way? Do you find it easy to bring these things to God?

How is God working in *your* life during this time of change and uncertainty?

**Song** City Alight - Yet not I but through Christ in me

<https://youtu.be/zundjUFazfg>

