

Hi Everyone

Warm greetings! Here are some things to help you with the sermon on Sunday morning. May God be with you

Love

Julian

1. Our text is 1 Peter 1 8-9

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

2. **Theme** The sermon picks up on the idea of not seeing and shows us how we can and do love Jesus, trust Jesus and experience His joy even though we haven't seen him and won't til we die.

If you are with children you might want to cue them up in advance by talking about Things that are real even though we can't see them (the wind, Black Holes in Space – you can think of your own.

The people they are most missing seeing in the flesh (friends, family members etc)

3. Outline

Intro

We can't see the Coronavirus molecules but we know that they are real! They are stopping us seeing people we want to see, including at Church. But....

1. You don't need to have seen Jesus (in the flesh) to love Him

Peter had, they hadn't. he better position? Many - Not How?

Eye witness testimony

Authorised explanation

Spiritual awakening = New birth – new tastebuds.

Relationship created of mutual love between you and Christ.

After point one Voluntary discussion points

Do you ever wish you could have seen Jesus with your own eyes? If not do you understand why someone else might feel like that?

Why is it not necessary?

What makes it possible for us to love Him even though we have not seen Him?

2. You don't need to see Jesus *now* to trust Him

This is how he works. He is invisible. We can't see or understand all he is doing either. But we don't need to see him now or see how he is at work now to decide to trust him. Stuck on mountain illustration. 'Jesus knows best.'

After point two

Discuss the illustration of the person stuck on the mountain ledge: how much do you feel like that right now? What is God's answer to that feeling of being stuck or not knowing where you are going?

3. You don't need to see Jesus in heaven to be filled with His Joy

Joy doesn't have to wait til heaven. Great joy. Now. *Inexpressible*. strawberries /bike /new friend. *Glorious* solid. Joy in bubble vs gold ring.

How? V. 9 – receiving salvation now. total forgiveness reconciliation to God. His promises. Hope of heaven.

Will you live in Cellar or Attic?

Mississippi Ice

After end of sermon

You may like to think about the illustration, or story or thought that has made most impact on you this morning and pray about it.

Or you may like to make a list of all the reasons for Joy that Christ has given you – see how many you can write out – try to get into double figures at least!

Or you may like to discuss how you can move more from the cellar to the attic?

Or how you can get back on your feet off the ice and walk forward confident that Christ's ice can hold your weight

PS. I am sorry it is a bit of a long sermon. I have recorded it twice because I wasn't happy with the first version – had I a bit more time I would have done it again and reduced the length. I am sorry I didn't do this.