

God, where are you, don't you care anymore?

CAROLINE RIDDETT, FORMERLY FROM THE 8AM SERVICE

God, where are you, don't you care anymore? Come and take the wheel, do something. The cries of your children go up every day. God, are you listening?

GOD does have a plan. The plan is us. There is no Plan B. We are His "chosen generation", channels and vessels of His Good News. We must become the children God intended us to be if we are to remain His faithful followers. To go back to the question, God, where are you, don't you care anymore? He is here, right beside us, He never left us. He is with the governments whispering wisdom into their ears to make vital decisions and put necessary measures in place; He is with every health care worker, granting them strength and courage as they bravely save lives; He is with all frontline workers, first responders, care givers, volunteers to respond with hearts to love and care and bring comfort and hope to the people they are ministering to; He is with all the Churches equipping them with innovative ways to keep Churches going and alive via social media, to stay connected as one people of God. Look around you and you will see God is everywhere, in all things. He has not forgotten anyone, He grieves and weeps with us as He holds us close to him; He is with the sick, the dying, the bereaved, the homeless, the terrified, you and me (Isaiah 41:10). He gently reminds us, "Don't be afraid, My love is stronger, My love is stronger than your fear. Don't be afraid, My love is stronger, My love is stronger than your fear. And I have promised, promised to be always near" (John Bell, Iona Community).

Our Vicar Chris gave us homework for this week. He asked us "what will you bring forward in all of this"? So what will Carol bring forward when the dust settles? I will put my life into the hands of God who is Sovereign and is more than able to bring us through

this catastrophic tumultuous time we are in at this moment. We only need to Be Still and know HE is GOD. In the quietness and stillness He has opened my eyes, He has given me incredible insight to see as He sees, the world He created for you and me. The pure childlike innocence and excitement to see rose buds in the rose bushes, leaves on the branches of the fruit trees, unimaginable, indescribable joy



The Riddetts' hands on the front door of their home is their daily routine of praying together as a family when the call was made, with Covid-19 looming, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justine Welby, for all Christians to step out of their front doors, place their hands on the door and say The Lord's Prayer as one people for God's Glory, for their own household, for their nation and for the world at large.

Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,

Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with

My righteous right hand.

Lord Jesus Christ, when You walked with us on earth, You spread your healing power on all whom You loved. We place in Your loving care all nations and all who are affected by this dreadful virus. Keep us strong in faith, hope and love. Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved, protect those who care for us. We lift our prayer to you Lord Jesus, and trust in your infinite mercy, as we wait for the daybreak. In Your Most Mighty and Precious Name, Amen

in seeing the multi-faceted colours and designs on butterflies flitting from flower to flower, the bumble bees buzzing around our ears as we go about digging and shovelling, getting the ground ready to plant our potatoes, herbs and cress, the gigantic earthworms wiggling about, birds feeding in our bird house and feeder (recently we have a squirrel join in and the naughty rascal hangs upside down trying to get at the bird food in the feeder).

Then comes our daily walk around our neighbourhood. In the stillness, in the silence, peace permeates all around, sans traffic and sans construction noises. The air is crisp and fresh, the skies are clear and blue and the birds are singing, what pure delight to the ears, allowing us time to stop and smell the flowers, and to enjoy the beauty of nature and landscape, it's a beautiful world. I like having conversations with God on my walks, it's the same here, my spirit soars, my soul finds quiet rest in His presence. Thanking Him for the everyday little gifts, for eyes to see and appreciate the beauty and wonders of this earth and for a heart filled with gratitude, for being able to feel His sovereign

presence here and now ... this is what I will take forward and hold on to dearly when the world starts spinning again, never to let go what I have found. I am truly blessed to be a child of God, a privilege and a joy every day. What will tomorrow bring? HE knows my name, He holds my hand.

Caroline, with her husband, Martin, and her son, Jeremy. The Riddetts worshipped at the 8am Service until they moved to the United Kingdom on the 5th of November 2019. They now reside in Shropshire, England and worship at St. Andrews, Shifnal.

