

Sermon Sunday 10th August 2025

Stand ready

There is change

yet still

There are many things that take us by surprise.

What is there

that is consistent

Throughout

The hours and the days and the years

There is only the core faith in Christ Jesus

This does not mean that our understanding does not change

This does not mean that the expression of our faith does not change

But the love of God is consistent

The presence of the Holy Spirit maintaining our lives

That is consistent

All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well

So

to stand ready

Is to place the self in the expectation of change

But with consistent faith

To know that nothing remains the same

To approach this truth

With the open wisdom of faith

When tired the challenges of change can feel acute.

The panic that sets in as phone or keys are lost

The trivial takes on monumental importance

The imagination builds images of catastrophic consequence

To stand ready

Is to place the self

in the expectation of such foolishness

But with consistent faith

To know that such accidents will happen

To approach this truth
With the calm wisdom of faith and deal with it

I shall die at some point or other
This could be a reality I deny, hiding from truth
Growing ever more anxious about health issues or energy
Compelling my body to pretend it is thirty years younger

To
stand ready
Is to place the self
in the expectation of death
Thus with consistent faith
To know that each day is a gift
To approach this truth
With the opportunity to live what I am to the full.

Those I love shall die some day some hour
This could be a suffering I attempt to immunise myself from
by keeping them away
Growing ever more isolated, hiding behind work or fabricated obstacles
Allowing time to pass so that the love is something of yesterday

To
stand ready
Is to place oneself
in the lived reality
Thus with consistent faith
To accept what can be done, where it can be done, and with whom it can be done
To love those close to me today and know that is enough
Stand ready
To face the trivial and significant with the humility of the place of peace
Stand ready
To grow older and closer to death with the joy of confidence in the promise
Stand ready
To love them now and thus be in a place from which you may say goodbye.