

E-READ

The General Conference of the New Church **Articles and Letters**

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If I Ruled The World

by David Friend

Many readers may remember the hit song "If I Ruled the World", made popular in 1963 by Harry Secombe; a hit from the musical 'Pickwick', which is based on the book 'The Pickwick Papers' by Charles Dickens. The song is sung by Mr Pickwick when he is mistaken for an election candidate, and is called on by the crowd to give his manifesto. Does this remind you of certain activities in this country only a short while ago, when several people spoke to groups of their followers around the country in an effort to secure the post of Prime Minister? What promises were made and what results are likely to be achieved?

On a more modest scale, in 1964 Topol was a hit performer with the song, "If I were a rich man". The lyric ends with the plaintive plea:-

**Lord who made the lion and the lamb,
You decreed I should be what I am.
Would it spoil some vast eternal plan
If I were a wealthy man?**

How many of us have devised some grandiose plans to put the world to rights - or at least wished we could bang some heads together. We could all surely do better than those whose responsibility it actually is. We appoint experts to advise us, and then spend our time telling them how to do the job. We all become instant experts when what we want to happen is not advocated by those in charge. We

could all make a better job of providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to everyone who needs it than the present government officials seem to be able to do. We all know what would be better than the present arrangements to get us out of the present 'lockdown' situation, don't we?

We live in an uncertain world in uncertain times and we elect to high office those whose manifesto appears to give priority more clearly to those things which we feel at home with - and trust that they will get on and sort things out to satisfy our desires. Hopefully it will also suit all the other people as well.

We note, in passing, that even those who are given the ultimate responsibility to lead their fellow citizens are still human beings when the robes of office are removed, and they have to suffer the same problems endured by the rest of us.

So where does God fit into all of this? For those of us with a belief that Divine Providence is over all things, down to the tiniest details of our lives, we are able to accept that the Lord is in charge, and that He knows what He is doing. However, if events in this natural world, and those who control them, seem to be going in entirely differently ways from those which we think they should do and we would like, we can only do our best to encourage our leaders to adapt their thinking.

So, do we just like it or lump it? Or do we shoulder our own responsibilities and provide assistance wherever we can - if it is within our skills and knowledge. "If I were a wealthy man", and/or "if I ruled the world", I hope I would carry on accepting that the Lord is looking after us all, all the time, and do my best to follow His leadership for the benefit of the whole of the human race. If we all did this, the world would be a better place to live for everyone.



Suggestions For The Third Sunday After Easter

by Revd John Elliott

Passages from the Word

Psalm 96

Luke 24:13-49

or Luke 24:13-35

The Teachings of the New Church

It is well known in the church that the Lord was conceived of Jehovah the Father, and was thus by conception God; also that He rose again in His whole body, for He left nothing the tomb. He subsequently confirmed His disciples in this belief, saying,

Look at my hands and my feet to see that it is really I. Touch me and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and blood as you see me have. Luke 24:39.

Although He was man having flesh and bones, He still passed in through closed doors, and after revealing Himself became visible (John 20:19,26; Luke 24:31,36). This is not what happens to every human being, for they only rise again in the spirit, not in the body. When therefore He said that He was not a spirit, He meant that He was not like any other human being. From this it is plain that in the Lord His humanity too was divine.

Paragraph 295 of **The New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for it**

pub 1990 tr John Chadwick

Also **Arcana Coelestia** 7933 **True Christian Religion** 262

Hymns

212 Jesus, stand among us *tune* Derby or St Constantine 6 5 6 5

281 Now the green blade rises *tune* Noel Nouvelet 11 10 10 10

244 Lord Jesus, in the days of old *tune* St Matthias or Surrey (Carey's) 8 8 8 8 8 8

Prayers

O Thou, who didst manifest thyself in the breaking of bread to thy disciples at Emmaus:

Grant us ever through the same sacrament of thy presence to know thee, and to love thee

more and more with all our hearts. Abide with us, O Lord, that we may ever abide in thee;

for thy tender mercy's sake.

EB Pusey

O Living Lord, who on the first Easter Day didst stand in the midst of thy disciples as the conqueror of sin and death, and didst speak to them thy peace: Come to us, we pray thee, in thy risen power and make us glad with thy presence; and so breathe thy Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may be strong to serve thee and spread abroad thy good news; for the glory of thy great name.

Frank Colquhoun

Lord, let your wisdom come more and more into the minds and councils of people, influencing them to mercy and moderation, and to abhor aggression and violence. Lead them to shun all insidious and persuasive evils as sin against Your Word. May its principles become the living guide of our thinking, speaking, and acting.

O Lord, guide and strengthen the hands that would do Your work, that seek to heal and to restore, to comfort and to bless. Be the strength of all who heal, for You alone can give life. May Your providence be with doctor and surgeon, nurse and helper, that they may bring health to the sick, and comfort and a quiet rest to the dying. This we ask for Your mercy's sake, O Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Book of Worship (1971) slightly altered

IT Advice Segments

by Gemma McLean

Over the next few issues of E-Read, I will be publishing a short segment containing some general IT safety advice. I hope you find these segments useful! This issue, we are focussing on sharing personal information.

Sharing Personal Information Online

Is it safe to share your personal information online? The answer isn't clear cut.

Example A: I am ordering a new kettle from Amazon and they need my postal address - this is essential in order to make the purchase so I would absolutely provide it. I am

providing this privately to a reputable company and not sharing it online for the general public to see.

Example B: In E-News I want people to send me entries for an art competition to my home address. If I publish my home address on E-News, the chances are only genuine E-News readers will see it. However, at the end of the day, it is publicly available for anyone to access. So what if someone unscrupulous makes a note of my address then 6 weeks later in another issue of E-News, I announce I am off on holiday for a fortnight! Am I being paranoid that I would be burgled? Maybe. But personally I would opt to say “please contact Gemma if you need her postal address” in E-News so that I can ensure it is only being provided to people I trust.

I am a little more relaxed about sharing my email address. You will find my email address in the sidebar in the first page of all E-News and E-Read issues.

I think it is generally good practice to just provide an email address in online publicly-available publications and then people can use that to contact you for further information, such as your postal address or telephone number, if needed

That being said, only give out your email address if it is necessary to do so. If you give it out freely (especially if you don’t tick the “no marketing” consent boxes when signing up for things) you could end up being bombarded with spam!