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Perseverance, Respect, Compassion.

Regardless of whether we may be a new President of the United States, a member of a team in an Intensive Care Unit, Care Worker in a Care Home or in the Community, or an 'ordinary' person, in this time of continuing pandemic three qualities are needed for all of us Perseverance, Respect, Compassion.

America has a new start. A new president, a man who knows sorrow and compassion. He experienced the loss of Neilia his first wife, and Naomi his one year old daughter who were killed in a car accident just days before Christmas in 1972. His two sons, Beau who was just under four years old, and Hunter who was just under three years old, were both in the car and were critically injured but survived. Beau sustained multiple broken bones while Hunter sustained injuries to his skull. Both spent several months in hospital.

For the final few years of his life Beau Biden suffered from a brain tumour dying in 2015, at age of 46.

During those difficult times Joe Biden demonstrated **perseverance** looking after his family and serving his country.

It has been reported that through that journey of grief Joe Biden not only found purpose but also forged within himself greater empathy and **compassion**, and that he is fond of quoting Kierkegaard, who said, "Faith sees best in the dark."

On inauguration day on 20 January 2021, as President – Elect, Joe Biden attended church, and the next morning, on his first full day in the office of President, he attended a virtual church service.

During his inaugural speech, he called for a moment of silence for those who died in the Covid-19 pandemic. Later he showed respect at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier who had died during World War I.

He insisted that people working with him show **respect**. At a mass swearing in of 1,000 senior officials he told them during a zoom call 'If you're ever working with me and I hear you treat another colleague with disrespect, talk down to someone, I promise I will fire you on the spot.' 'No ifs, ands or buts. Everybody, everybody is entitled to be treated with decency and dignity'.

In 1 Peter 2:17 we read 'Show proper respect to everyone'

In England, and around the world, Health and Social Care workers demonstrate perseverance, respect, and compassion for those they care for, treating them with decency and dignity. Death has always been

a part of Health and Social Care work but the number of deaths from Covid-19 over such a long period of time can be overwhelming for them. But they continue with the long shifts, and extra shifts, making personal sacrifices for those in their care.

It is usually the case that Health and Social Care workers shed their tears in private after their shift has ended, unseen by their patients and clients, – but recently we have witnessed their tears in front of television cameras, overwhelmed by the sheer enormity of the Covid-19 pandemic. And then they carried on working!

For some the hardest time may be to come, with adrenaline bleeding off, exhaustion catching up, being mentally, physically, and emotionally drained, and thoughts turning to those who they cared and fought for, and to those that died including their own friends and colleagues. As in all wars some will feel guilty that they lived while others died.

God is in control, even in times such as these, when we may find it hard to see. We must continue to place our hope in Him, persevere with following the rules of lockdown, be grateful for the vaccination program, and pray for those affected by Covid-19 either through caring for others, those who are ill with the virus, and those who have suffered loss.

Romans 5:3 reminds us that that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

As President Joe Biden persevered through intense loss and suffering, continuing to worship God, and showing respect and compassion, we must follow that example, remembering that everything has a season and this pandemic will end in time.

God's love and compassion will see us through it until we have a new start... And beyond.

Peter

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast":
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright":
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.



Recordings of Services
are available on the web:



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www.kimptonchurch.co.uk

