**Monday 18th May**

Acts 16:25-26

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose.

Life in Lockdown according to Paul and Silas! today we’re looking at another example of the people of God being in Lockdown and how they approached that time. Of course, Paul and Silas were doing time for very different reasons - they were imprisoned for the crime of sharing Good News. In fact that news was so good, that even a spell in a rough Philippian jail couldn’t keep them down! It was midnight and they were singing - praising God at the top of their voices! Wow! But what happens next is interesting. The whole place begins to shake, their chains fall to the ground, the rest of the story describes how the terrified Jailer and his whole family become followers of Jesus! So good! We have already thought in the past weeks about our praise being powerful. What a demonstration we see here! When we see Jesus with our own eyes, face-to-face, we will be unable to do anything but worship him - we will be so overwhelmed by His goodness and beauty. But when we offer Him our praises when it is midnight, and we are in lockdown, that is a beautiful and precious thing to Him. That is us choosing to honour Him because of who He is and not because the conditions are optimal. That kind of praise brings down prison walls and brings revelation. Today, lift up praises to Him - go on, actually sing! Listen. I can hear the sound of chains hitting the floor!

<https://youtu.be/M7MR77AVBOs>

*Jesus, we praise you that you are Good News through and through! We worship you today as our Creator, our Saviour and Redeemer, the one who has rescued us. We thank you that in you we can know a love like no other. You are worthy of all our praises!*



*Father, we lift our nation to you today. We pray that you would visit us again with revival fire. That you would open eyes to see your goodness, and our fundamental need of you. We pray for the Church in this land. We ask you to empower and embolden us. We thank you for the many people who are engaging with church on-line, and reaching out to you. Holy Spirit would you continue to move in greater power that many would find hope in Jesus. Amen*

