

A place to sit in God's presence

The thoughts shared by Ann White at the Rosyth Methodist Church morning service on the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 22 September 2024.

Some were attending the Scottish Methodist Gathering in Stirling, so “The Rosyth Gathering” in the Church Lounge took a rather different and less formal character, and was followed by a fellowship lunch.



What do you know about Jeremiah?

Who was he?

What did he do?

... in a cistern

... in prison

... prophesied about Babylonian invasion.

Didn't have a very good life

But things were about to take a turn for the better ...

Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: Hanamel son of Shallum your uncle is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth, because as nearest relative it is your right and duty to buy it.’

“Then, just as the Lord had said, my cousin Hanamel came to me in the courtyard of the guard and said, ‘Buy my field at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. Since it is your right to redeem it and possess it, buy it for yourself.’

“I knew that this was the word of the Lord; so I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out for him seventeen shekels of silver. I signed

and sealed the deed, had it witnessed, and weighed out the silver on the scales. I took the deed of purchase—the sealed copy containing the terms and conditions, as well as the unsealed copy— and I gave this deed to Baruch son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel and of the witnesses who had signed the deed and of all the Jews sitting in the courtyard of the guard.

“In their presence I gave Baruch these instructions: ‘This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. For this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’

Jeremiah 32:6–15 (NIV)

However, when the Babylonians did come, he was allowed to stay behind, and he met God in many unexpected places.

He went to the potter's house when he needed to leave the hustle and bustle behind, and his spirit was renewed.

When I was in ministry, there were many times when I needed to have my spirit renewed.

A member of my first congregation was a healing touch practitioner.

I didn't really know what healing touch is, but I went along to find out.





Healing touch has a bit of a false name, because the practitioner doesn't actually touch you, but rather he/she acts as a conduit for the Holy Spirit to minister to you.

I don't see a healing touch person these days, but I still take quiet time to relax in God's presence.

For me it is no longer the potter's house I go to, but I sit on the end of my bed and gaze on God's handiwork in the garden.

Now don't get over-excited! If you have ever seen Mary's garden, it is nothing like mine – I just plant up some pots at the beginning of summer and by this time of year God's handiwork fills them with weeds!

I've always felt a connection with Jeremiah having a place to go where God's spirit can wash over me.

A friend has a prayer chair where she sits in God's presence.

Do you have a place to sit in God's presence?

It doesn't matter where it is.

As long as you can feel close to God.

And God will come close to you.

Amen.

The photograph taken by Beth Macdonald was made available via the Unsplash platform and can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ysrxc36z>