

I've been changed!

We open this week's devotions with Leonard Ballantine's upbeat setting 'Since Jesus':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xMS-73yj3c&feature=emb_logo

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I had sought, Since Jesus came into my heart!*

*Since Jesus came into my heart!
Since Jesus came into my heart!
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart!*

When we worked in residential centres, a much-anticipated part of most meetings was the opportunity to share a favourite song or chorus. At one appointment there was a gentleman who would always be first of the mark, choosing the song above. The problem was that, though he sang the words enthusiastically, the planned change of life-style never materialised, at least not during our stay there.

Many of us are reluctant to contemplate change: we are comfortable as we are, and change can seem like a threat to all we know and are used to. I was struck by the words of Commissioner Cotterill on Sunday when he pointed out the need to empty our lives of what is there to allow space for the Holy Spirit to come in and fill us. For some people, this period of isolation has accentuated the fears they already had, and there are those of all ages who are apprehensive of the changes that will come as the lock-down is relaxed. Indeed, I was speaking to someone this week who commented that their grandchild, who used to be so excited whenever they met, is now rather timid and over-awed.

What I do know is that we must be ready to trust that God knows best, and will bring about the necessary changes in his own way, if we simply trust in him.

Romans 12:1-2: So then, my brothers and sisters, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and pleasing to him and is perfect.

To close, what could be more appropriate than 'I've been changed'?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0x30l-00TM>