

A Prayer for Mark Cavendish

In 2008, the British Cycling Team, based just down the road at the Manchester Velodrome, was triumphant. Every member of the team won Olympic medals. Except Mark Cavendish. Devastated, Cav turned to road racing instead and enjoyed a remarkably successful career, winning 12 (check fact) stages of the Tour de France as well as the world championship. Following his role in helping Bradley Wiggins to become the first ever British winner of the Tour de France, Cav was strong favourite to take the Olympic road racing gold.

It did not happen. Cavendish trailed in 28th as the British team failed to control the race.

Hebrews 11 is usually read as a hymn to faith - but it is often forgotten that the writer lists 'heroes of faith' who never saw their final destination, but continued to race nevertheless.

Step follows step
follows step
follows step.
Eyes focussed
on the path ahead
see details
chocolate wrapper
oil rainbow on the surface of a puddle
grass sprouting between cobbles
Step follows step
follows step
follows step.
Eyes focussed
on the path ahead
do not notice
a friend across the road
clouds darkening the sky
traffic thundering over the bridge above
Step follows step
follows step
follows step.

Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on

No end in sight.
No finish line
No roaring crowd.

Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on

A promised land
A covenanted people
The hope of peace

Wholeness
resurrection

life.

The Messiah is crucified.
The Liberator executed.
The Saviour killed.

Two thousand years of waiting
Two thousand years of hope

Waiting for resurrection
Hoping for Shalom
Believing in God's Kingdom

Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on
Keep on keeping on

And so we are here
Once again
And so we are here
Once again

To pray
To speak
To worship

To remind ourselves of the hope of your promise

to continue our journey of faith.

And so, as we gather, we pray as we have prayed so many times before
and as others have prayed so many times before us
and as Jesus himself taught disciples to pray...

Our father...

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