

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome back everyone to our online worship service. Thank you for joining us, either on Sunday or any other day of the week. Here we are, in Leicester, England at our third National Lockdown, in order to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus and its new variant. Our church building is closed, but our church, the body of Christ, is alive and vibrant and we want thank God for His protection and for the great salvation we have in Jesus. Later during this service we are going to have a time of communion, so please if you are not ready why don't you pause now and grab a piece of bread and a little cup of wine or grape juice so you can participate with us. Let us read **Isaiah 12** "***In that day you will say: 'I will praise you, Lord. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.' With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: 'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.'***" Let us call on the name of the Lord together. He is our Salvation and we delight in His presence and exalt his name among the nations. He has done great things and we will trust and we shall not be afraid. Shout aloud and sing for joy!

Song 1 – You are My King

<https://youtu.be/DMLH67y7C5E> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*I'm forgiven because You were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
And I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died and rose again*

*Amazing love, how can it be
That You, my King, should die for me?
Amazing love, I know it's true
And it's my joy to honour You
In all I do, to honour You*

*You are my King
Jesus, You are my King*

Song 2 – The Creed / This I believe

<https://youtu.be/nNiYUPsHgls> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour*

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in one
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

*Our Judge and our Defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high*

*I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord*

*I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe, in the name of Jesus*

Song 3 – Christ is Enough

<https://youtu.be/OfZ-tBR7LJ0> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Christ is my reward and all of my devotion
Now there's nothing in this world that could ever satisfy
Through every trial, my soul will sing
No turning back, I've been set free*

*Christ is enough for me, Christ is enough for me
Everything I need is in You, Everything I need*

*Christ my all in all, the joy of my salvation
And this hope will never fail, Heaven is our home*

*Through every storm, my soul will sing
Jesus is here, to God be the glory*

*I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back*

*The cross before me, the world behind me
No turning back, no turning back
The cross before me, the world behind me
No turning back, no turning back*

Holy Communion

Matthew 26: 26-29

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' **27** Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' I would like to invite you to participate on the Lord's Table. The Bible says that we ought to examine ourselves, confess our sins and then eat and drink in remembrance of Him. We remember His death, but we celebrate His life because He rose again and He is alive. His sacrifice on the cross brought us life and forgiveness of our sins. In front of you are the two elements: the bread, which represents his body and the fruit of the vine, which represents his blood shared for us on the cross.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. We remember His sacrifice and we glad accept your grace that was poured out for us on that moment of distress, sorrow and pain. Thank you Jesus for the gift of eternal life and for the freedom we have found in you. Let's eat the bread and drink the wine. Let's rejoice in our salvation!

Preaching and Teaching

What Really Matters? By Pr. Claudio Moises

Introduction

Grace and Peace to you all! With this virus spreading faster than ever, my prayer is that God will fill our hearts with His peace and that He may continue protecting you and all your loved ones with good health, not only physically but emotionally and spiritually. Today I would like to read to you another passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians. The apostle Paul writes this letter from a prison in Rome. He was probably waiting for his death sentence yet he writes this letter with his heart full of joy and hope in Jesus. Last Sunday we meditated on Paul's prayer on the first few verses of this letter and I suggested that this may be Our Prayer for The New Year. ***"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the***

day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11 He prays that we would be able to discern what is best, in other words that we may approve things that are excellent or for us to understand what really matters. During this week I stopped to read the whole letter again in order to find what really matters for Paul. So Let us read **Philippians 3:7-14** *“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.*

I – To Have an Intimate Relationship with Jesus

“What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.” Philippians 3:8 We see here that for Paul the most important thing in life is to pursue and maintain an intimate relationship with Jesus. What really matters is to have Christ living in our hearts. Paul says: I want to know Him and the power of His resurrection. The power of the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and it is the same power that is in us. Paul had a powerful encounter with Jesus, which turned his life upside down. He was resistant to the gospel and he persecuted the church. He was zealous in Judaism. In Acts chapter 9 we read about his conversion. Jesus appeared to him and the light was so strong that it made him blind for while. He encountered with Jesus and Jesus took hold of him. Since the Creation we see God pursuing a relationship with us. God was walking with Adam and Eve in the garden. After Paul’s conversion, the most important thing for him was to have this personal and intimate relationship with Jesus. He wanted to know Christ. And how does he do that? He keeps pressing on and this is his highest goal. In **Philippians 3:12-14** he says...*“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.* He doesn’t dwell in past mistakes he made as he now has a new life. So, he keeps looking ahead. God knows our failures and He knows our weakness. He knows we are finite, but as children of God we are in this process of sanctification. Salvation is a gift from God, but Sanctification is a process and Paul is saying that we should engage in this process so that we may have this intimate and personal relationship with Jesus.

II – To Set Our Minds on Eternal Things

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” Philippians 3:20-21 The powerful encounter Paul had with Jesus changed his life perspective forever. His passions and desires were no longer for things that would pass away and were temporal but His eyes were now fixed on things that have an eternal value. His Roman citizenship cannot be compared to His heavenly one. What is 80, 90 or even 100 years of life here on earth compared to eternity in heaven? Who can be certain we will die with old age? Death can come at any time to us and it is not only this virus that can kill us. I have a cousin right now in hospital in Brazil fighting against cancer. He has a beautiful family and he is still young. I’ve been praying for God to deliver him from death and that he may find the eternal life in Jesus. On Friday afternoon I went with Becky to the park so she could have some outside exercise and train a little bit of football. When we were coming back on Groby Road I crashed my car on an Arriva bus. The bus hit the door at the passenger side. Becky protected herself with her hands coming close to me as we both saw that gigantic vehicle coming in our direction. It was scary but we thank God for his protection! We had only material loss, but it could have been a fatal accident. Andrea and I have been constantly praying for our children as they are the most precious thing we have here on earth. We all need to be ready for when the Lord calls us home. We have this assurance of eternal life. In May, this year, we will be applying for our leave to remain in this country and later for a British Citizenship. I love this country and look forward to become a British Citizen. However, the Lord reminded me this week that my real citizenship is in heaven and I am here only for a little while in comparison to my life in eternity with Jesus. It is fine to desire a good career and to earn a good living; enjoying the comfort of a new house and a new car. All of these are good things, but we won’t take any of these things with us to heaven, except our relationship with Jesus. We will be with Him forever.

III – To Value our Relationships

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:1-5. One of the most valuable things we have in life is our relationships and Paul is saying that we should walk in humility, valuing others above ourselves. Paul mentioned Timothy, which is his son in the faith and he also mentioned his friend Epaphroditus here in this letter, who was his brother and companion in the gospel and a fellow soldier in Christ. The joy of fellowship and communion we have with one another. We are friends and co workers in Christ and I believe our relationships in Christ are also eternal. For Paul this is another important and excellent thing in life, that we value and honour our relationships. I believe we will recognize each other in heaven. I have this hope that I am going to recognize my grandmother in heaven and I want to thank her for her prayers for us when she was here on earth. She was a strong believer in Jesus and she always prayed and interceded for my family. In Brazil, on the last day of the year, churches usually have a late service at night and just before midnight, we bow down on our knees in prayer welcoming the New Year. That’s exactly what my grandmother did, she bowed down with her friends in church to pray and after they prayed everybody else stood up at the sound of fireworks, hugging each other saying Happy New Year! My grandmother however remained still on her knees and she went peacefully to be with the Lord that day. I believe we will recognize each other in heaven. What about Paul, David and all

those heroes of our faith? Paul talks to the church as my beloved, his beloved friends. Jesus is saying for us to reconcile with one another. **“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24** We need to settle our differences and love and forgive one another and enjoy our fellowship, friendship and partnership in the Gospel when we are here on earth. Let us love one another not only in words but in action. May we value and honour our relationships. Value our families, neighbours and community relationship. Children should love and honour their parents. Husbands should love your wives and so on.

Conclusion

Paul prayed for us to choose what is best and be able to discern what is excellent and what really matters in life and we learned: 1 - to know Christ and have an intimate and personal relationship with Him and we should pursue this with all our hearts and minds. 2 - To fix our eyes on things that are eternal and 3 - to value our relationships forgiving and loving one another, just as Jesus loved and forgave us.

Responsive Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the example Paul left for us of what really matters in life. God, we want to pursue this intimate relationship with Jesus and to know Him and be more like him. Father help us to fix our eyes on the things that are eternal and bless our relationships and fellowship with one another. May our love for one another increase and that we may be quick to love, forgive and extend grace just as you have loved and forgiven us. May 2021 be a fruitful and blessed year for each one of us. In Your holy and precious' name I pray, Amen

Intercessory Prayer, by Andrea Moises

Father God,

We come to you with our hearts full of gratitude for your unfailing love and your protecting hands upon us all right now as we face another wave of the Corona virus. We humbly come to ask you to continue pouring out your grace, not only here in our city and community but over the whole country and the entire world, wherever the pandemic is taking place. We ask you to heal those who are suffering and battling against the virus right now. Would you please also watch over those who are working in the frontlines, so they can be protected and be able to help others. We all depend on your loving care and your almighty power. We trust our tomorrow in your hands, aware that your will is the best for each one us. We ask you all these things, in Jesus' precious name, amen.

Song 4 – Miracles

<https://youtu.be/5vUvi-A75BU> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*The one who made the blind to see
Is moving here in front of me,*

*Moving here in front of me
The one who made the deaf to hear
Is silencing my every fear,
Silencing my every fear*

*I believe in You, I believe in You
You're the God of miracles*

*The one who does impossible
It's reaching out to make me whole,
Reaching out to make me whole
The one who put death in its place
His life is flowing through my veins,
His life is flowing through my veins*

*I believe in You, I believe in You
You're the God of miracles*

*The God who was and is to come
The power of the Risen one
The God who brings the dead to life
You're the God of miracles*

Final Words and Announcements

We are coming to the end of our service today and we are glad you joined us. My official commissioning service day was postponed now for the first Sunday service, after the lockdown and if restrictions are lifted, it will be on February 21. Our Zoom home group prayer meeting will be every Wednesday at 7:30pm and I will be sending the link for you all to connect via email or WhatsApp. You can make a direct payment to the church bank account for your contribution as follows: A D L Memorial Buckminster – Sort Code: 09-01-51 and Account Number: 13749406

Let me finish the service by praying the priestly blessing over us all

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the sweet presence and fellowship with the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever more, Amen

See you all on Next Sunday