

Welcome and Introduction by Andrea Moises

Welcome everyone! This is the Buckminster Road Baptist Church Sunday worship service and we are glad you joined us today. Later during our service there will be a time for us to celebrate communion together and if you are not ready with the two elements, why don't you stop reading this service now and get a little piece of bread and a small cup with wine or grape juice so we can remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us. Let's continue putting our trust and hope in the Lord despite the circumstances the world is going through with this pandemic. God can do all things and works everything for the good of those who love Him. Let's draw closer and closer to him in worship and adoration. There is no situation that he cannot change and He is infinite and mighty in all His ways. **Psalm 61:1-4** says... **1 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2 From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. 4 I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.**

Let us pray...

Father God,

Here we are with our hearts full of adoration to you. Thank you for your sweet presence, thank you for your unfailing love which draws us closer and closer to your throne of grace. We want to lift you high above everything else, praising you for your amazing grace in our lives and your constant protection. You're indeed our refuge and strength in times of troubles and to you alone we give honour and all the glory. Almighty God, please come and take your place in our hearts in this time of praise and worship to you. In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Song 1 – There is None Like You

<https://youtu.be/wPtSTpAba4w> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*There is none like You
No one else can touch my heart like You do
I could search for all eternity, long and find,
There is none like You*

*Your mercy flows like a river wide
And healing comes from Your hand
Suffering children are safe in Your arms
There is none like You*

Song 2 – Thank You For the Cross, Lord (Worthy is the Lamb)

https://youtu.be/1gKsPMR00_Y Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Thank you for the cross, Lord
Thank you for the price You paid
Bearing all my sin and shame
In love You came and gave amazing grace*

*Thank you for this love, Lord
Thank you for the nail pierced hands
Washed me in Your cleansing flow and now all I know
Your forgiveness and embrace*

***Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne
Crown You now with many crowns
You reign victorious
High and lifted up Jesus Son of God
The Darling of Heaven crucified
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb***

Holy Communion

Today we would like to celebrate communion together. In Matthew 26:17-30 we read that Jesus before he was betrayed he had a Passover meal with His disciples. They sat together in fellowship with one another. ***“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.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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.’” Matthew 26:26-29***

Let us Pray... Lord, we pray that You would still our minds and quiet our hearts as we approach this communion table today. We ask that You would draw each one of us into ever closer fellowship with Yourself, as we partake together of the bread and wine, in grateful remembrance of what You did for each one of us, on Calvary’s cross. Help me Lord, to approach this communion table with reverence and godly fear, as we share together in the bread and the cup. Lord, we remember how on the same night that You were betrayed You took a piece of bread, and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to Your disciples and said. “eat this in remembrance of Me.” We also remember how You then took the cup and told them. “this is the new covenant in My blood, do this in remembrance of Me.” Lord, we partake of this bread and drink this cup in remembrance of all You did on the cross in our behalf, and we praise and glorify Your holy name. Amen – Let us all eat and drink together and remembrance of Him.

Intercessory Prayer By Marguerite Aduh

Lord Jesus, we come to you today and thank you for the privilege of praying for others. We have been the recipients of others' prayers so often, we understand how powerful intercessory prayer can be. We ask you first to cleanse our heart and show us if there is any un-confessed sin in our own lives so that our prayers for others will not be hindered.

We thank you that through your name, we can come boldly before you and pray with confidence, according to your will and know that you hear us. We lift those in our neighbourhood, in our city, and in our church, in our country and all around the world. Begin with those who follow you and help them influence others for good. Let them be salt and light, pointing others to you. Deepen their love for you and for the people around them. Guard them from hypocrisy or from giving in to temptations that could harm the cause of Christ. Raise up leaders who will serve you faithfully at all costs. Turn the hearts of fathers toward their children, and families toward you. Help them to exemplify your values and make them bold in their faith. Strengthen our own families, and those closest to us, Lord. May our love for you help us to love and forgive others and make a difference in our world. Lord we pray for all key workers around the world, who are putting their own lives at risk at this very difficult time to overcome this pandemic, and for all those in authority and leadership both locally and around the world. Give them your mind and surround them with godly counsellors who will exercise integrity and work for justice, morality, and freedom. Help them to esteem you, not dismiss you. Send revival, Lord. We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned—behind both visible and invisible walls. Send your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence to those who are without hope. Protect the defenceless and hold them close to your heart. We pray for laborers to tell the good news of Jesus to people around our world. Lord Jesus, our heart hearts cry out for persecuted believers, too. Make them brave and give them your powerful protection. We pray you will bring swift justice to those who want to destroy the innocent and those who carry your name. Bind the power of Satan and strengthen believers everywhere. We particularly pray for the Rohingya Muslims who are being persecuted and facing some sort of ethnic cleansing because of their faith. Lord these people are being made stateless because of their faith. We pray for your guidance and protection towards these people. We have so many needs, Lord Jesus, but you are adequate for every need. Your name is powerful, and your power is great. We ask all these through your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Preaching and Teaching by Pr. Claudio Moises The Sovereignty of God in the Midst of Suffering

Introduction

This pandemic has reached every nation on the face of the earth and it is affecting everyone in one way or another. We depend on God for His intervention and to help us to come out of this crisis. In times like these it's important for us to have the perspective of God's sovereignty in the midst of suffering. We don't have the answers for all of our questions, but we can trust in God. He is good, He is holy and He has a plan for each one of us! Last week we looked at the experience Isaiah had with God and His vision of God's sitting on the throne in all His holiness and mighty, calling the prophet to consecrate and respond to the needs around him. Andrea and I are following a program for reading the Bible in one year on the Bible app we have on our smart phones. This week we've been listening to Job and God's word has been speaking and comforting us as we are confronted with so much pain and suffering in the entire world at the moment. As Covid-19 infections are starting to be under control here in the UK. We are receiving quite a lot of bad news coming from our home country right now. A dear friend is in an intensive care unit in the hospital fighting for her life and thousands more are dying every day around the country, without mentioning all other types of diseases. Today I

want to talk about God's sovereignty and power in the midst of suffering and I would like us to look into the life of Job. Having a perspective of God's sovereignty in suffering is a powerful and we can learn so much by reading and meditating in this book. Job had a beautiful comprehension of the sovereignty of God and he expressed it beautifully at the end of his book. We are going to read **Job 42:1-6**, ***"Then Job replied to the Lord: 'I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 'You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.'*** In order for us to have a better understanding of what these words really meant for Job I would like to give you a little summary of his life and the background context of this book in which he comes to this conclusion at the end. Job was a real person, however some would say that Job's story is a work of religion fiction. This is not how the bible refers when talking about Job. ***"Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy."*** **James 5:10-12**. This is a real story and the bible tells us that Job was one of the richest men as well the godliest man in his generation. Job was married and he had 10 children. God himself speaks about Job of being an example of a servant, a man who fears God and lived a righteous life here on earth. ***"Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.'"*** **Job 1:8** However, this man becomes a target of Satan's most cruel attacks. When Satan appeared before God questioning Him about the reasons why Job was faithful to Him. Satan suggested to God that people worship him because of the things He gives to them instead of worshipping Him for who He is. ***"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.'"*** **Job 1:9-11** So, God gave permission for Job to be tested by Satan. However God set up the boundaries of what Satan could do and couldn't do. ***12 The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.'*** **Job 1:12** This is very important for us to understand because Satan can be powerful, but he's still under the authority of God. God has no equal and there is no competition for Him. Satan can't challenge the power of God and put his sovereignty at risk. God has the control of the universe in His hands and even Satan is under the authority of the God Almighty and He can only do what God allows him to do. We see in the book that Job was attacked by Satan in 5 different areas, which are vital. First he was attacked on his finances (how this pandemic is causing panic in this area in many countries around the world). The lockdown is disrupting the economy of the world and may bring a recession that will be difficult to recover in a short period of time. Employers and employees are afflicted. To touch on the finances of someone is to touch on something vital for the well being of the family, the society and the nation. Job not only suffered loss in his finances but he had an even more severe attack from Satan. His 10 children were gathered together in the house of their eldest brother, when an accident happened and all his 10 children died on the same day. It's difficult to imagine the amount of pain and suffering Job had to go

through. A father having to bury all his children at the same day right after he had lost all his possessions. If this wasn't enough Job received a third attack. He became very ill with open wounds on his entire body. The bible tells us that Job was afflicted with severe sores from the sole of his foot to the top of his head. He got a piece of broken pottery so that he could scratch himself. ***"I am nothing but skin and bones; I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."*** Job 19: 20 - With no relief for his pain and no medicine that could help alleviate his suffering. On top of this situation he received the fourth attack. His wife lost her faith when she saw his condition. ***"His wife said to him, 'Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!'"*** Job 2:9 Here is an important point for us to think about. True faith is not tested on days of health and prosperity, but on the days of adversity and sorrows. This is when we need to exercise our faith in God. Job then suffered his fifth attack. His friends who came to comfort him stood still with him for seven days in silence. However, when they opened their mouth they started to accuse him that his suffering was a direct consequence of his sins. Only God knows the reason why we go through suffering and it's clear here that in Job's case it wasn't a consequence of his sins. The question is what should we do when we go through suffering?

I – Learning to Trust God

"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth." Job 19:25 In front of all attacks and suffering he had Job didn't lose his trust in God. His faith was unshakable. At the climax of his pain, sorrow and despair he cried out in hope: ***"I know that my redeemer lives,..."*** Uncertainties of the future, financial crisis, illness and risk of death are all around us. However, God continues being God and only in Him we should put our trust. My redeemer lives! Perhaps today you are feeling a little anxious. Let me encourage you to lift your eyes to God. He is aware of what is going on and He's control and ***"in the end he will stand on the earth."*** When we read Job we may come up with questions: Why God? Why is an invisible virus upsetting a whole planet? Why hasn't God taken away this virus yet? Why are the nations suffering? Why are so many people dying? We probably have more questions than answers. Job also had many questions like "why am I suffering? Why my children? Why is this pain not going away? Why didn't I die in my mother's womb? Why didn't I die at my birth?" God allows Job to ask his questions and it is important for us to open our hearts to God. He knows we are finite and He understands our humanity. God stayed silent, but when He broke silence He didn't answer his questions and he didn't respond to his complaints. God spoke using rhetoric questions asking Job about His majesty in creation, His glory, His power and His sovereignty showing Job that the whole universe was in His hands. He was in control of everything and He had a plan for everything. In **Job 38:4-7** we read: ***"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone – while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?"*** At that moment Job made one of the most important declarations about the sovereignty of God

II – God Can do all Things and None of His Plans can be frustrated

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2 Job was still under the test; wounded, affected and persecuted with pain but he made this declaration. ***"I know you can do all things"*** God can do all things! Our human efforts are limited and fragile compared to God who is all powerful. The most

powerful nation and economies of the world are also limited and fragile. We see in this pandemic, that even the most powerful nations in the world have been affected. Doctors and scientists are also fragile and finite. Our brave NHS soldiers at the front line are putting their own lives at risk, but they are also fragile and finite. It is so important for us all to know this truth. God can do all things. Only a sign from His hands or a word from His mouth can change and transform everything. His power goes beyond what men can do with money, science, and political power. God can do all things! It is time for us to come back to God and have this truth firmly in our hearts. God is blowing His trumpet and is calling us to repent. The nations are worshipping other gods and man think they don't need God. We need to bow down in front of His majesty and sovereignty and come back to worship him in fear and holiness. Not only can God do all things he also has a plan for everything as Job realized. This universe wasn't spontaneously or accidentally created and it is not a consequence of a cosmic explosion. The universe was created by God and is governed by Him. He is seated on the throne and He has a plan for this world and for each one of us. His plans are eternal and perfect. No one can frustrate God's plan

III – Deepening our Experience and Knowledge of God

“My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job 42:5-6 At the end of the book God restored everything and gave Job double of all he had lost. This statement is the beginning of a transformation and it started in his heart. **“After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.” Job 42:10** Job had a deeper experience with God in his life and his love for him and he repented. If a man like Job, who was godly and righteous, had to humble himself and repent... What then should be our response? Suffering comes in order to deepen our knowledge and understanding of God, not to push us away from God, but to draw us close to Him opening the eyes of our souls in order for us to understand how great our God is.

Conclusion

We should learn with Job and remain firm in our faith and trust in God alone. Sometimes God allows suffering in our lives to call our attention for us to depend on Him. Only God can do all things and His plans cannot be frustrated. It doesn't matter what we go through. God has an eternal plan for all of us. God is sitting on the throne and he can do all things and He is able to restore everything. By the grace of God we will come out of this crisis stronger. He has the power to restore His church and bring the nations to His feet. May God fill us afresh with His Holy Spirit, awakening and bringing revival to our souls.

Responsive Prayer

Dear Heavenly father,

We thank you because in your word we find comfort, hope and relief. In this rough time we pray for you to open the eyes of our hearts to know you more. Lord we trust in your sovereignty and power over the nations. Nothing is impossible for you and that is why we pray for restoration and revival. Please, forgive our sins and help us to continue to trust in your unfailing love. Use this time to bring many people to repentance and to the knowledge of your salvation. We surrender our lives and everything to you.

In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen

Song 3 – O Praise the Name (Anástasis)

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

*I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet
My Saviour on that cursed tree*

*His body bound and drenched in tears
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb
The entrance sealed by heavy stone
Messiah still and all alone*

**O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God**

*Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King
He shall return in robes of white
The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face*

Final Words and Announcements

There's a Zoom prayer meeting every Wednesday at 7:30pm. The link will be on the email, which I sent with the written service and I will send a reminder on WhatsApp on the day. Becky is will be running a Youth Life Group Meeting at the same time also on Wednesdays. Gifts and tithes can be sent directly to the church's bank account. Details are as follow: A D L Memorial Buckminster – Account Number: 13749406 Sort Code: 09-01-51 - You can send your feedback and your prayer request to my email: moises@galacticomm.org text me or call me: 07592997764

Let me finish with a priestly blessing in Numbers 6:24-26

““The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.””

See you all Next Sunday!