

Opening Song 1 – Hosanna (Paul Baloche)

<https://youtu.be/VMBDWG9tseU> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away*

**Hosanna, hosanna
You are the God Who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here, Lord Jesus**

*Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away*

*'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away
'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away*

Welcome and Introduction by Andrea Moises

Hello and welcome to our Buckminster Road Baptist Church service. Although we're still in lockdown here in the UK, we're very much connected through our weekly prayer meetings and youth life group via Zoom on Wednesdays at 19:30 and our Sundays services. It's such a joy for us to have you participating with us in this time of praise and worship, prayer and meditation on God's word. This has been a challenging season, in which we've been longing to be able to visit family and friends, enjoy fellowship in presential gatherings, classes, courses and outside daily activities. For some of us, we're facing the hurt and sorrow of battling the virus or having someone close we know haven't to deal with it. Or even worse, a few may have lost beloved ones, due to the virus. It's time for us to look up to God and like David, cry out to Him, saying: **"Hear my voice oh God, do not forsake me"**. Let's read **Psalm 27:1-9** and learn with David, someone who also faced all sorts of hardships throughout his life, but never lost trust in the Lord! **"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent**

and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD. Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!' Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Saviour."

Let's Pray...

Heavenly Father,

You are indeed our light and salvation and we worship you with all our heart, mind and soul. We thank you for always being by our side and not hiding your face from us, despite our weaknesses and limitations. We want to exalt you and adore you all the days of our lives, no matter the situation, no matter how much distressed or afraid we might be. We praise you for being our strength and our shelter, for embracing us in our darkest hours. Please help us to continue putting our trust and hope in you alone.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Song 2 – Way Maker (Lee Land)

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

*You are here, moving in our midst I worship You I worship You
You are here, working in this place I worship You I worship You*

***Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is who You are***

*You are here, touching every heart I worship You I worship You
You are here, healing every heart Healing every heart*

*Oh, I worship You Jesus, I worship You
You're turning lives around
You are here, oh, turning lives around
I worship You I worship You*

*You mended every heart
You are here, and You are mending every heart
I worship You, yeah I worship You*

*My God, that is who You are
Sing that is who You are
Oh, that is who You are
And that is who You are*

*Even when I don't see it, You're working
You never stop, You never stop working*

Preaching and Teaching by Pr. Claudio Moises

Message: Immeasurably More (Series on Paul's letter to the Ephesians)

In Acts chapter 19 we read how Paul arrived in Ephesus and he preached the Gospel there. His ministry had a tremendous impact, not only in the city, but throughout all the province of Asia. The bible tells us that he stayed there for two years and **“God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,” Acts 19:11** And many people became followers of Jesus and publicly confessed their new faith leaving behind their evil ways. **“A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.” Acts 19:19-20** Ephesus was a very important city for all the province of Asia in the Roman Empire. It was a big centre for trade and commerce. It had a harbour and a port and it was an epicentre of worship of all Greek and Roman gods of that time. It was a strategic place for the message of the Gospel to quickly spread in the region. And I believe that is why Paul stayed longer preaching the Gospel there. You can still visit the site of the old Roman city of Ephesus in modern Turkey today and it is very impressive the ruins that are still standing there. We had the opportunity to visit it a couple of times during the time we used to live in the Middle East. The ruins of the Arcadian Street, which used to link the harbour to the great theatre, the temple of Artemis, which was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. However, the most interested construction for me was the theatre, which still has a powerful acoustic. I walked to the top of the theatre's seats and I asked my friends who were with me, to sing or speak from the middle of the stage and I could perfectly hear the sound. We read in Acts about a riot that Demetrius started. He was in rage as he was losing his business of making little shrines of goddess Artemis. He accused Paul and his friends of being the cause and he instigated the whole city against them putting their lives in danger. ...they all shouted in unison for about two hours: **‘Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!’ Acts 19:34** I stopped for some time at the site thinking what Paul and his friends might have felt experiencing all these. I could imagine their fear as they were in real danger of being stoned by the crowd. Now Paul is in prison in Rome around 60-62 A.D and he wrote this letter in order to remind them of their new identity as followers of Jesus. They were no longer in bondage to their previous involvements in idol worship, sorceries and illicit sex (prostitution and orgies were common practices in the temple, part of the cult and worship to the goddess Artemis). We see that in the first three chapters of this letter the apostle Paul talks about all that God has done and he emphasizes each of the spiritual blessings they had received by accepting Jesus and from chapter 4...In consequence of this amazing love, grace and salvation they had received from God the father, they ought to walk in their new identity. Let us read together: **Ephesians 1:1-14 “1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into**

effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory.”

I – Our New Identity in Christ

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3

Paul opens this letter with a beautiful Hebrew style poem and He praises God for all He has done for us; who have believed and have been saved. If we look carefully, we may notice how many times the words: “in Christ or in Him are repeated in this text... **the faithful in Christ Jesus v1 ... “who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ” v3 “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight”.v4 “In him we have redemption through his blood”... v7 ...“he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,...” v9 “In him we were also chosen...” v11 ...in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ...v12 “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, v.12** From the beginning, Paul wants to remind us of who we are in Christ, our new identity as followers of Jesus and all the spiritual blessings we have. His amazing and immeasurable grace towards us. When we believed and accepted Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, all these spiritual blessings became ours. Why did Paul write this letter? Because it is very easy for us to forget who we are and go back to acting like we haven't met Jesus and behave just like everyone else in the world. I can imagine how difficult it was for those believers in Ephesus to maintain firm in their faith and continue walking in the light in a very dark city. To keep trusting God when circumstances are not favourable is not easy and many may have abandoned their faith. Paul, however, shows strength in the Lord even though he is in prison in Rome when he writes this letter. At the moment, in this pandemic, you may be experiencing fear, anxiety and all kinds of trouble. Suffering is very evident and it is everywhere. God wants to remind us of who we are and all the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus and start praising and glorifying him for our salvation. When we are under stress is very easy for us to go back to our old idols and look for false comfort. The Holy Spirit is saying that we are no longer slaves to fear. We are children of God. It is important for us to notice here that Paul is praising God for all the spiritual blessings and not material blessings, which our generation often concentrates on. Another problem I see is that we often concentrate on what we should be doing for God rather than looking to all God has done for us. All the good works we do in His name should be as a consequence of an understanding of His love and grace that He has lavished on us and not a list of what we need to do. You are going to fail every time you try to do things for God without first having this revelation of His unfailing love and immeasurable grace for you. **“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9** The church has emphasized for too long about what you ought to be

doing for God. But the Bible doesn't. The bible emphasizes what God has done for you. It is always in this order; first what God has done for us and then what we ought to do for God. **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. I Peter 1:3-4** The glorious work of God on our behalf and the only thing He requires from us is that we believe and trust in Him.

II – Chosen by the Father

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will –" Ephesians 1:4-5 In Christ you were chosen before the foundation of the world. We are not an accident. Before we ever existed, in love he predestined us for salvation. God's divine election! He exists outside of time and He is not limited by our time- God is infinite. It was His will to save us and this was His plan from the beginning. However, God still gives us the chance to choose where we are going to spend our eternity. Even though God is sovereign and He knows who will follow him or who will reject him, He didn't create robots, but human beings with free will, so we can decide to follow him. His desire is that no one will perish. The door is still open, He has chosen you! But He didn't take away your freedom to choose. **"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. Ephesians 1:4** One day we will be called home and we will stand before God and He is going to look at us and Jesus is going to step up and say: Father, this is one of mine. Only in Christ we can be made holy and without blame. That is the only way God is going to receive us in His kingdom in heaven, only if we are in Christ Jesus. Not by works of righteousness. Only by the blood of Jesus, which was shed for us on the cross. **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." II Corinthians 5:21** God's predestined plan for our lives was that we shall be adopted as His children. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will." In Paul's letter to the Romans, we see him build on this concept of adoption. **14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:14-17** Jesus is the only begotten son of God, but God has predestined us to be His adopted children through Christ Jesus **...in accordance with his pleasure and will." Ephesians 1:5b** This is an important phrase for us to understand. God has chosen you and has predestined you so that He might receive pleasure and joy from your wilful obedience to His will, that you might be obedient children in which the father takes pride in. Last week I spoke about bringing joy to God's heart, however we can also bring grief and pain to His heart when we choose to disobey. God rejoices in our sincere obedience and trust in Him. The Father takes pleasure in us, His children. **6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. Ephesians 1:6** So, the next spiritual blessing is that we have been...

III – Redeemed by the Son

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,” Ephesians 1:7-8 In Christ we have the redemption through his blood. Jesus paid for my debts and I have been set free from the power of sin and death. Once I was slave to sin, but Jesus bought back my freedom. He paid my ransom and the price was His blood was shed on the cross. Jesus died so I could live. ***“he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.” Ephesians 1:9-10*** When time reaches its fulfilment, God will gather together all things in obedience to Jesus. Our salvation will be completed and God will redeem and restore everything again into complete harmony. Our corrupt bodies will be transformed into new and uncorrupted bodies just like Jesus’ resurrected body. No more death and no more tears! Satan and Evil will be destroyed forever. ***1 Then I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ 5 He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Revelation 21:1-5***

IV – Sealed By the Holy Spirit

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.” Ephesians 1:13-14 Through Jesus Christ I have become heir of God’s glorious and eternal kingdom and the richness of the kingdom is mine and I shall enjoy it for all eternity. Ephesus had a major port, where goods from the Far East would come and the merchants from Rome would come to the port to purchase those goods. After they had purchased their goods, they would seal those crates with wax and each one of those merchants would have their own ring with their initials stamped on. It was a sign of ownership at the time. Then their servants would come and collect their goods for them and this was the way their servants knew which crate belonged to their masters. Jesus has purchased us with His blood and the Holy Spirit in us is the seal showing that we belong to Him. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

Conclusion

We have a new identity in Christ and the Father has blessed us by adopting us to be His children. He has lavished us with his grace, love and compassion. By His grace alone we have been saved. Jesus has redeemed us through His blood, in which he purchased us from the power of sin and death, setting us free to worship and glorify the Father. He will stand in front of us in the presence of God the father and He will present us as holy and blameless. The Holy Spirit has sealed us with His presence and we

belong to God. At the end, He will dry all our tears and all will be restored to harmony again.

Let's pray...

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the new identity we have in Christ Jesus and for the immeasurable love and grace you have lavished on us. In consequence of your love and grace, help us Lord to walk in the good works you have prepared for us. We belong to Jesus and we trust in His sacrifice on the cross and the work of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Thank you for your constant presence and your promise to complete the work you have started in our lives. We rest assured in all these blessings you have provided for us. In Jesus' precious name we pray, amen
In Jesus' name, amen.

Intercessory Prayer - By Peter Bestall

O Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us, the assurance of your ever constant support and the knowledge that you will be our strength and guide when we falter. Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who work in the hospitals and care homes throughout the world often working long hours under great physical and mental stress, please keep them safe. We thank you also for all who are involved with the corona virus vaccines from scientists through to those administering the injections, many hundreds of people. Truly remarkable achievements, thank you for making this happen. Many millions in the British Isles have now received at least the first injection so we ask that you guide those in authority to plan how they can make the vaccines available to those nations who are less fortunate financially than we are. O Lord, for the last twelve months the pandemic has given each one of us problems that no living person has ever experienced. Many have lost loved ones and many no longer have work or home. Please help each one of us to do whatever we can to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Loving God, you who holds our grief, fears and hopes and who walks with us into the future, light our path and progress along the way that we may know your power in and for us. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Song 3 – Salvation Belongs to Our God (Crystal Lewis)

<https://youtu.be/IF1x9CmR2kA> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Salvation belongs to our God
Who sits upon the throne and unto the Lamb
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks
Honour and power and strength*

***Be to our God, forever and ever x3
Amen***

*And we the redeemed shall be strong
In purpose and unity declaring aloud
Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks
Honor and power and strength*

Final Words and Announcements

There's a zoom prayer meeting for the adults and there is also a youth life group on zoom every Wednesday at 7:30pm. The links will be on the email, which I send with the written service and we will send a reminder on Whatsapp on the day. Gifts and tithes can be sent directly to the church's bank account. Details are on the screen at the end of this video 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 this service with an apostolic blessing:

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all
now and forever more. Amen

See you all Next Sunday!