

Song 1 – Open the Eyes of my Heart (Michael Smith)

<https://youtu.be/fadU7b9aa78> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You*

*To see You high and lifted up
Shinning in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy*

*Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy,
I want to see you*

Welcome and Introduction (by Saulo & Becky Moises)

Hello and welcome! We are Buckminster Road Baptist Church and we are leading this service from our home here in Leicester. It's such a joy to have you participating with us! In the church calendar we are in a period of lent. Lent is a period of 40 days before Easter. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. This is a period is usually marked with fasting and prayer. It is a time to seek God in order to know Him more and to grow in love and intimacy with Him. This entire year has been a year of God's calling our attention to Him. He desires us to come closer and closer to Him. This invisible enemy (the virus) has shown us how our lives on earth can be fragile. We are here only for a little while. We are all going to die and this is only a matter of when and how we're all going to meet God our creator. We will need to give account of how we lived our lives here on earth. May God help us to reflect and press on in the knowledge of Him. In **Hosea 6:1-3, 6** we read: ***"1 Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence 3 Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." 6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.***

Let's Pray...

Lord we remember the depth of your love for us, and we repent for not acknowledging you and for not seeking you as you deserve. And we thank you because you often use times like these of hardship and difficulties in order to call our attention to you. Lord we want to know and press on knowing you. We know you have called us to deny

ourselves so forgive us for putting self-interest before the interests of others and your kingdom. Forgive us if Christ's Lordship in our hearts has been challenged by our ambitions, our appetites, our desires, and our needs; forgive us for the times self-interest hindered our care for others. Thank you for your forgiveness and for the promises of restoration. We want to take time in this lent period in order to be in your presence learning from you and your ways. Teach us oh Lord to live and walk in your presence, because our desire is to know you more. Bless this time we spend together and reveal more of yourself to us as we worship and meditate in your word today. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen

Song 2 – In the Secret (Chris Tomlin)

<https://youtu.be/YV9qD0Z0WuM> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*In the secret, in the quiet place
In the stillness You are there.
In the secret, in the quiet hour I wait,
Only for You, 'cause I want to know You more;*

***I want to know You,
I want to hear Your voice
I want to know You more.
I want to touch You,
I want to see Your face
I want to know You more.***

*I am reaching for the highest goal,
Then I might receive the prize.
Pressing onward, pushing every hindering aside,
Out of my way, 'cause I want to know you more*

Song 3 – As the Deer Panteth for the Water (The Maranatha singers)

<https://youtu.be/FBppKZ0eJIQ> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee*

***You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee***

*You're my friend
And You are my brother
Even though You are a King*

*I love You more than any other
So much more than anything*

*I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye*

Preaching and Teaching by Pr. Claudio Moises

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

When reading the whole letter we see that there is a clear division. Chapter 1-3 Paul lays the foundation and the doctrine of our Salvation. We have been saved by His Grace alone. ***“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8*** And from chapter 4 to the end Paul will give practical instructions on how we should be living our lives as a disciple of Jesus. Therefore, in consequence of this exceedingly abundant Grace they received. They had now entered in this process of sanctification, which will last until the day they die or until Christ returns in all His glory and power. There are lots of practical instructions that we will be looking at them and hopefully we will be able to apply into our lives and our community. ***“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:1-2*** Last week we saw how Paul started this letter by praising God for all of the spiritual blessings. Our heavenly Father has chosen us on eternity and he has adopted us to be His children and He has lavished His love on us. And we have been redeemed by His son Jesus Christ. Through His death and sacrifice on the cross we have been set free from the power of sin and death. And in this new life in Christ we also have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, who is a guarantee that we belong to Him. The Holy Spirit will be guiding and helping us in our journeys until Jesus returns with all His power and glory to complete His work he had started in us. Now from verse 15-23 we are going to read the apostle Paul engaging in a prayer of thanksgiving and intercession for those believers in Christ in that region. It is important for us to remember that this letter wouldn't be only for the church in Ephesus, but it would be circulating and being read in many other churches in the entire province of Asia. Paul prays asking God to open the eyes of their hearts in order for them to know, that God would give them a spirit of wisdom and revelation, to perceive and understand: The hope to which we have been called, the riches of his glorious inheritance and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

Let's us read ***Ephesians 1:15-23 – “15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit[f] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his***

feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

I – The hope to which He has called you

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you,...” Ephesians 1:18

Paul is speaking of a hope which is certain and not based on earthly material things. Believers in Jesus can have this assurance of their salvation, because it is a gift from God. Satan cannot take it away from us and it is not based on our works or our acts of righteousness but it is based only on the grace, love and mercy that God has lavished on us. And this hope is not based on earthly material things that perish, which the moth and the vermin destroy, but on eternal things. Jesus spoke about those treasures in heaven. He said: **“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Mathew 6:19-20** The apostle Peter in his letter also writes about our living hope **“3 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** This living hope we have is based on the fact that Jesus died and rose again. He conquered death and He is alive! In Hebrews we read that **“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. Hebrews 6:19-20** - Our hope is secure, not because of our righteous acts, but because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and His blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We are saved by His Grace into this living Hope! Believers in Jesus can be sure of their salvation and it happens when they believe and confess Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**

II – The riches of his glorious inheritance

“...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, I Peter 1:4 God has adopted us to be His children and as children of God we have also become heirs in His inheritance. An inheritance, which is spiritual and is kept for you in heaven. We need to remember that Ephesus was a very rich and commercial city. Many business and rich people lived in town. They possessed a lot of money and properties, which they would pass on to their children. Many of those believers in Ephesus had probably been abandoned, disinherited by their family’s inheritance when they had chosen to follow Jesus. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is saying God’s inheritance is exceedingly abundant, way more beyond than what they had ever asked or imagined. By being followers of Jesus and becoming part of the family of God they became richer than the richest man in that city and their inheritance was eternal and imperishable. In their new identities as children of God they are blessed and rich in their souls. They had been chosen and adopted by the creator of the universe and everything belongs to Him. God the father has an inheritance that is greater and exceedingly beyond what we can ask or imagine. **“However, as it is**

written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things God has prepared for those who love him" – II Corinthians 2:9

III – His incomparably great power for us who believe

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know...his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms," Ephesians 1:19-20

It is important for us to remember that city of Ephesus had the great temple of the goddess Artemis, the Diana of the Ephesians. It was the centre for worship of this goddess. She was known as the queen of heavenly powers. She was known as the lady of the zodiac. She governed the power of the unseen world. She was the incarnation of power and authority. They were devoted to Artemis and they were used to all kinds of evil practices (magic and sorceresses) on their search for the unseeing world and power. Many who had believed in Jesus professed their faith and burned their books of sorceress and witchcraft in the middle of the town. That is why Paul describes in detail where they could find the real power. Once they had believed in Jesus they might have questioned where the power of God was. They were still getting sick as everybody else. They were still going through all kinds of troubles and suffering and it probably got even worse as they were being persecuted because of their new faith. Paul says that God's power has been revealed in raising Christ from the dead and it manifests in the heavenly realms. It is a spiritual power that operates also inside the believer and it is an eternal and incomparable power. God is all powerful and mighty. He has dominion over all His creation, but it is not this power that he is talking about here. This power that Paul is talking about is the power of our salvation, which was incomparable greater, in which they have been chosen by the Father, redeemed by the son and sealed by Holy Spirit. The power that brought them from the darkness to the light and gave them life when they were still dead in their sins. They were dead and enslaved to all kinds of sin when Paul came and brought the Gospel to them and this Gospel is the power of God for salvation. That is the power that is transforming their lives into Christ's image and likeness. **For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16** The transformation that had happened in their lives was only possible because of the mighty power and strength of God who took them out of the kingdom of darkness, witchcraft, sorceress to the kingdom of light, joy, peace and love. Paul prays that their hearts would be illuminated, that they would be able to perceive how great the power of God was to save them. This power and strength is above all powers, principalities and nothing can oppose the mighty power of God. It's the same today when someone comes to Christ. God uses this mighty power, which is incomparable, to make a greater miracle, which is the miracle of our salvation. Perceiving and understanding this truth would bring a lot of encouragement to them. Paul continues building on saying that Jesus' name is above all other names and we can see a parallel with the passage in Philippians. **9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-10 - Jesus is the Lord and he is above all other gods**

Conclusion

We have been saved by His grace into a living hope, which is spiritual, eternal and secure. It's imperishable, no one and nothing can take this hope away from us. Our salvation is a gift from God and we can have the assurance of our eternal life in Jesus Christ. Even though we may go through difficulties and troubles in Christ we must keep our faith firm and trust in him. We have experienced the miracle of our salvation and what Jesus has promised to us in His kingdom is exceedingly more of what we can think or imagine. ***“However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ – the things God has prepared for those who love him” – II Corinthians 2:9*** God's power is also above and beyond every power and it is available and working in us for our salvation bringing us closer and closer.

Let's pray...

Lord we pray that you open the eyes of our hearts today in order for us to know The hope to which you have called us, the riches of your glorious inheritance and your incomparably great power working and available for us who believe, in your holy name we pray, Amen

Song 4 – Knowing You Jesus (Graham Kendrick)

<https://youtu.be/pTTISx6zXio> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

***Knowing You, Jesus
Knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You, Lord***

Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and known as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness

*Oh, to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die*

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. This Wednesday Sandy and Andrea will be meeting

with the juniours. 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 and the 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 us finish our service with the prayer the Lord has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespasses against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
Forever and ever,
Amen.

See you all Next Sunday!