

Whitstable Baptist Church
SUNDAY 22nd MARCH 2020

We trust you will know God's presence & a very real sense of the rich fellowship we share in Christ as you worship with us this morning. We will be well-provided for as we enjoy Sian's thoughtful contributions & prayerful reflections leading up to some family moments with the Gettys in the USA. We've even a quiz to test your brain-cells!

Do enjoy the hymns & songs & sing along!

It is a wonderful privilege & an amazing provision to have Stuart's brother, Bruce, ministering to us. He brings a very timely & inspiring Word from God on this extraordinary Sunday.

May God bless you & yours & keep you all at peace in His love,
Paul

Welcome to the first act of worship that we will share together as a dispersed community! Throughout this unprecedented time, let's seek God together in prayer and worship, offering praise and thanks, seeking God's face, hearing God's Word and discerning ways of serving the world in the name of Jesus – as we closely follow him.

So, find somewhere comfortable to sit. Have your Bible to hand. And take a moment to bring yourself into God's presence, and the presence of each other, as we worship God.

Let's read Psalm 27 together –

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 evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Song: Praise my Soul the King of Heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyRIVbdsi4c>

Prayer of Praise

Our Gracious and Faithful God,
we praise you for who you are;
the one who created all things
and made them good;
the one whose very heart
beats with love and compassion;
the one who planted joy and hope
in the depths of our beings;
the one who, when we turned away from you
and went our own way,
sent your own Son to
reveal the fullness of your love for us
in his life, death and resurrection.

*We praise you and thank you
for your overwhelming love.*

You are the one who promises
to be near us in every moment of our lives;
in shade and light,
in joy and sorrow,
from mountain top to
valley floor;
that you, loving God, will never
leave us or forsake us,

*We praise you and thank you
For your overwhelming love.*

You have walked with your people
through times of great trial
and great sadness.
In the depths of human experience
your presence has evoked a
a hallelujah
a planting of hope
a confession of sin
a time to respond to your love
in new ways.
So in this time of anxiety,
fill our hearts a faithful hallelujah again
for....

*We praise you and thank you
for your overwhelming love. Amen.*

Song: Faithful One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uxviwvjyg1w>

Let's say **The Lord's Prayer** together

Prayers of Intercession

Our Faithful God,
the world seems a very different place
this month from last.

A new virus has circled the globe,
crossing national borders at will,
indiscriminately affecting the rich and the poor,
circumventing all human made walls,
dodging all attempts to protect privilege
and revealing the fragility of life
that we foolishly think we control.

Lord God,
we declare our complete dependence on you
for all that sustains life, and for life itself.

In this new season of stopping,
we lift to you the world, the church and ourselves,
of all who need your love, healing and presence.

We pray for all who are directly affected by Covid-19,
all who are suffering from it
in their own bodies or the bodies of ones they love;
we pray for all who are tending those suffering from it,
all medical staff, the hospitals, the clinics, the surgeries,
wherever gentle loving care is given from one to another,
and ask for your strength, help and healing to encircle each act.

We pray for governments struggling to understand
how this virus works,
how the science can be applied,
what systems of support are needed by everyone
and ask for all decision makers your wisdom and help.

We pray for all those in authority calling for a
greater compassion and kindness,
as neighbour watches out for neighbour.
May this time unleash acts of courage and care
that will last long after the virus has done its work.

We pray for those who are anxious and afraid,
That your peace and presence would enfold them.
For all who are reflecting on death, perhaps for the first time,
we ask that in your love and mercy,
you would meet them in life changing ways
in Jesus.

We pray for the church,
that, as we seek to follow Jesus,
you would strengthen our common life,
and help us to look out for each other,
encourage each other
and build each other up.

We ask that you would help us
to live out our saved lives
in serving others;
keep us awake to see and help
the most vulnerable and powerless
in our neighbourhood and the world;
Hold us closely to you,
and reach into the depths
of our lives with
the hope of salvation,
words of reassurance,
the gift of peace,
the gift of presence,
the gift of faith,
as we seek to live lovingly and hopefully
right now, in this week.

Hear our prayers
For we ask them in the name of Jesus,
Our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

Song: Be bold be strong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRvCUz6KFB4>

**We travel now to the home of song-writers Keith & Kristyn Getty & their lovely girls
on what was St Patrick's Day on Tuesday past (an important day for Paul!)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiWK9tGvxtk>

A MOTHERS' DAY QUIZ - MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE



Match the mothers with their children for they're all mixed up!

Mothers' Names

Eve
Sarah
Hannah
Rachel
Ruth
Bathsheba
Elizabeth
Mary
Eunice
Lois

Children's Names

Obed (David's Grandfather)
Jesus
Eunice
John the Baptist
Cain and Abel
Samuel
Solomon
Timothy
Isaac
Joseph and Benjamin

Some Bible references to help:

Genesis 46 v19
Ruth 4 v13 & v21
Genesis 21 v3
2 Samuel 12 v24

2 Timothy 1 v5
Luke 1 vs 57 – 60
1 Samuel 1 v 20

**BIBLICAL REMARKS REGARDING THE GODLY MOTHER –
'HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND CALL HER BLESSED!'
Proverbs 31v28**

Song: Speak O Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=my90e3a_nlM

ADDRESS please open the further attachment provided

By Bruce Williams – Christian retreat leader & mentor (brother of our church member Stuart)

Song: God will make a way

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsMAXhc0QTs>

Benediction and Final Greetings

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (From Hebrews 13 vs20&21)