

ONLINE SERVICE

during COVID-19

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11 October 2020

Welcome and Notices

Amanda Fairs
viola

Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Young at Heart
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Philippians 2:1-16
Will Findlay

Great Texts of the Bible #10
The Mind of Christ my Saviour

Prayers of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



NOTICES

11 October 2020

Wednesday 14 October 1.30 pm Sweet Hour of Prayer
Sunday 18 October 11 am Great Texts of the Bible #11.

For your prayers this week:

Congregational members:

Sonya and Ian
Rutherford



and
Mavis PRICE is with WBT and currently in Africa
training teachers on the teaching of English to
children.



Members who wish to continue their freewill
offerings during the COVID 19 restrictions may
post to our Treasurer. Vic Ansell,
59 Queen St Kangaroo Flat, Vic 3555 or use the
electronic banking details below.

Electronic Banking Details: ANZ Forest Hill,
Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

BLACKBURN
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Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLACKBURN

11 October 2020

FOR IT IS
God
WHO
works
in you to
WILL & ACT
in order to
FULFILL
his good
purpose.
PHIL 2:13

WELCOME



There were some key advances in 2019, with the operationalization of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), the Office for Reparations and the return of some of the military-occupied private land to its owners. There were limited steps taken to hold the perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable. The April bombings, which claimed the lives of more than 250 people when an Islamist armed group attacked three churches and three hotels, led to the imposition of Emergency Regulations enabling arbitrary detentions and undue restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and religious belief. Amnesty International 2019

Now in lockdown for over two months, villages around Sri Lanka have been hit hard.

With few able to properly provide for their families, Kumar's *church, which cannot be named for security purposes, saw both a need and an opportunity. With assistance from Open Doors, the church was able to provide rations for 100 families in the village, including those who had attacked Kumar. According to local believers, this simple act of generosity has transformed their community like never before.

The pastor of the church, Shiyanth* shared, "Doing this gave us more opportunities to share the gospel and show the love of Christ. More people are eager to know the Lord. I see a great renewal within the church. Even the local government representative in the village has changed his attitude towards the Christian community. We are building better relationships with the people now."

Please be praying as the Sri Lankan church navigates both suffering and joy in this time. Open Doors June 2020

Great Texts of the Bible #10 Philippians 2

Sermon
Notes

Philippians is Paul's happiest letter. And the happiness is infectious, says Eugene Peterson.

Flick through this letter see if you can find eleven references to joy and rejoicing! Where does it come from? Consider:

1 The Mind [v.3,4] The apostle is writing from jail! [1:7,13] His work was under attack. [1:15, 3:2,18] He had been 'on the road' throughout the eastern Roman Empire for about 20 years and was tired. However, we discover these external circumstances are not the primary source of his happiness. It is for Christ that he is imprisoned and everyone knows it. He wants this life shared through out the entire community [1:9-11].

Paul's life centres on Jesus Christ [1:21], and this is the source of his joy. This life also spills into the lives of all who receive Jesus. Seeing the life of Jesus overflowing in the lives of the Philippians is a causes him joy [1:4].

Joy and happiness are elusive and cannot be bought or stored. This happiness is not found by searching, it is a by-product of something else. The pursuit of happiness for it's own sake is futile.

To social commentator Hugh MacKay 'social fragmentation' and 'loneliness' among the young, are markers that we are travelling in the wrong direction. In his 2019 Australia Day address he commented "We need to abandon the relentless and fruitless quest for personal happiness and, adopt, as a way of life, a greater responsiveness to the needs of those around us".

For Paul, joy and happiness have more to do with a particular *mindfulness*, with attitude. Paul talks of the *attitude* or *mindset* of the Christians in Philippi. And what mindset was encouraged? He mentions the absence of 'selfish ambition' and the presence of 'humility', a humility by which others are esteemed more highly than oneself.

How out of fashion is humility in the age of the 'selfie'?

Michael Jensen writes: "Within a community of people valuing others more highly, we find that each person is valued. Putting aside self-interest and pursuing the interests of others is the kind of self-forgetfulness that actually brings us joy."

2 His mind [v.5-11] Paul quotes a song about Jesus Christ, perhaps the earliest hymn lyrics recorded.

The lyrics represents the apex of new Testament teaching about Jesus. he had the 'form' [*morphe* Gk.] of God. Paul is saying Jesus has the very nature of God, equating Jesus with God. Adding that he did to think this was something to cling to, but voluntarily embraced the role of a servant.

Jesus *humbled* himself. The Gk word is *kenosis* meaning literally *emptied*, and has been much debated. The humbling was the taking of the form of a servant. God veiled in human flesh - Adam was made in the image of God, here God is made in the likeness of man. In a world where humility was rare, the God of the Christians took on flesh and blood and bone; God embraced mortality. This deserves our deepest reflection.

This obedience to the Father's will earned the Son of God exaltation. The highest honour is accorded to the Servant. To him every knee will bow; his the Name above every name.

Jesus is Lord! How should this awesome truth affect us?

3 Your mind [v.12,13] We are to live out the reality of this salvation. How? With fear and trembling.

This is not to deny that we have come to a place of security and refuge within the loving embrace of God. But our loving God is holy, and so it is with awe and reverence that we come before him. Not in merit or virtue of our own.

We are received by God for the sake of the Lord who has loved us. The praise and glory are his. We can have confidence in God's mercy, but we cannot presume upon it.

As we live our lives we are invited to recognise that God is at work in us to *will* and *do* his good pleasure. That God is in fact changing us so that we want what he wants! And what is it that He wants?

Well, not 'whingers'! [v.14] He wants us to 'shine like stars' in the sky so that the 'word of life' is held out to others, so they can discover and enjoy, the goodness of God.