

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 22 August 2021

Chit Chat
Welcome and Notices
Christine Bradbeer

Prayer of Invocation

Young @ Heart
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Acts 16:11-34
Amanda Fairs

Sermon: Acts #12
On the Road Again
The Philippi Tryptich

Meditation
Music by Amanda Fairs (viola)
Minuet 1 & 2
Bach solo cello suite

Prayer of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Benediction



NOTICES

22 August 2021

Website: www.blackburnpc.org.au

Wednesday 25 August 1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time.
Sunday 29 August 11 am Divine Service. Online Only.
Live stream on Facebook, then later,
with closed caption option on
YouTube.

For your prayers this week

Congregational member: **Morag ZWARTZ**



and



Hannah DAVIES is with Pioneers in South Korea
and pursuing language learning and student
ministry.



GARDENIA ST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
BLACKBURN

22 August 2021

WELCOME



PHILIPPI

Philippi

Atlas from Space

Source:
Baumgarten,
Monika A., et al.
Baedeker:
Greece. 4th
English edition.
New York:
Macmillan Travel,
1995.



For your Prayers

Sermon Outline

Indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian targets continued. Freedom of expression was suppressed; journalists were threatened, harassed, intimidated, beaten, subjected to arbitrary arrests and killed. Women and girls continued to be subjected to sexual violence. Internally displaced people were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and faced forced evictions. In Somaliland, government critics and journalists were censored, harassed and prosecuted, and attacks on media houses continued.

Amnesty International 2020.

It is impossible to publicly worship or declare your faith in Somalia. Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity and anyone who is suspected to be a Christian convert is often assaulted or humiliated in public. Christians also risk being killed by members of their own family and community.

Christians are also in danger from al-Shabaab, a violent group that believes life should be governed by Sharia (Islamic) law. Christians from a Muslim background are targeted by al-Shabaab and often executed on the spot.

Christian families are usually left unprotected if the father is killed or abducted. Women are often sexually assaulted and forcibly married, making them some of the most vulnerable people in Somalia. The country does not have any domestic violence laws

Open Doors Australia 2020

On the Road Again The Philippi Triptych

We're on the road with Paul and Silas today and I am greatly looking forward to their arrival in Philippi. But first there are a couple of awkward issues 'we' have to think about. We have three points, and a triptych - a presentation in three panels. First the challenges...

1. difficult team split (15:36-41)
Barnabas wanted to take John Mark, his cousin, but Paul said no, since he had previously turned back. The disagreement was sharp. The Greek word is *paroxysm*. Christians are not immune to human tensions and disagreement!

Two missions emerged. Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus, Paul and Silas went overland to Celicia to revisit and strengthen the churches.

At Derbe they added Timothy to the team. His believing mother and grandmother were Jewish. His circumcision was not mandatory, but it was strategic.

2. a dream itinerary (16:1-10)
Two Roman provinces are blocked; Asia (SW) and Bithynia (NE). We are not told how. Paul dreamt a Macedonian call. Notice Luke says "we" sailed from Troas via Samothrace to Neapolis, (across the Dardanelles).

The head north to Philippi, a 'Roman colony' on the Via Egnatia (see map). Such 'colonies' were settled by former soldiers and had a privileged status. It has no synagogue, so they gather by the river where devout meet for prayer.

3. a Philippi triptych (11:15-40)
Lydia is a devout woman, and she trades in purple cloth from Thyatira. She is responsive to the message of Jesus and offers hospitality to the apostles. She is the first convert in Europe.

Paul is troubled by an exploited girl. Her owners are profiting by her psychic abilities. She is a 'python' girl. When she is healed and restored her owners stir up a crowd and have the team imprisoned.

That memorable night in an earthquake frees the prisoners and the gaoler, likely an ex soldier prays out for help. He get more than he expects and also offers hospitality to the apostles.

Next morning civil authorities permit the release of ht e'troublemakers' but are shocked to discover their Roman citizenship! (cf Cicero v Verres)

So the first converts in Philippi are a woman, a slave and a Gentile. (Contra Daily Jewish Prayer!) This triptych tells of God's new community reaching unexpectedly where human injustice ruined lives, to heal and to save.

4. ps - a later letter (Philippians 1-4)
Later Paul wrote a letter to his friends in Philippi. It has been described as his 'happiest letter' (MSG). The word 'joy' is used repeatedly.

He also provides us with the words of an early hymn (chapter 2:6-10). Was this what they sang in the Philippi gaol?

The emphasis is what Lydia discovered, Jesus is Lord.



Paul's Second Missionary Journey

DID YOU KNOW?

Cicero v Verres 70 BC

Verres was a Roman Procurator in Sicily in the first century BC. It was common in those days for Procurators to abuse their power. Verres abused his power and stole at will from citizens. Eventually a young barrister named Cicero, appalled at the abuses, wrote out a prosecution. Even Verres friends and bribed supporters could not help him. Cicero's critical point hinged on an event so appalling it stirred universal outrage; Verres had crucified an opponent, and that opponent was a Roman Citizen.

NTW Commentary on Acts 16

Daily Jewish Prayer

Rebbi Yehudah says, "A person is obligated to say the following three blessings every day: Blessed are You, our God, King of the world, for not making me a Gentile, Blessed are You, our God, King of the world, for not making me a woman, Blessed are You, our God, King of the world, for not making me a slave."

Tractate Berachot, Chapter 6, Tosefta 23