

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday 25 April 2021

Welcome and Notices
Mr Keith Ferres, Session Clerk

Hymn 601
O God, our help

One Minute Silence

Prayer of Invocation

Young at Heart
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-14

Hymn 248
Jesus stand among us

Sermon
Acts #2
Receive the Gift

Prayer of Intercession
and
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 131
The Head that once was crowned

Benediction



NOTICES

25 April 2021

Website: www.blackburnpc.org.au

Wednesday 28 April 1.30 pm Prayer Meeting.
Sunday 2 May 11 am Divine Service. Acts #3
All Welcome Covid safe practices.
NB May 17-21 7.30 pm One Heart: Whitehorse
Churches Care: Week of Prayer

For your prayers this week



Congregational member:
Elizabeth McCarthy.

and



Warwick and Natalie SHORT and family are
with SIM in Niger. Pray that God will work
deeply in the lives of believers and that
communities will be transformed.

GARDENIA ST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Gardenia Street,
Blackburn 3130



Minister: Rev Graham Bradbeer
tel. 9041 7911 mobile. 0409 978 690
Session Clerk: Mr Keith Ferres 98305466
Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

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

GARDENIA ST.
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BLACKBURN

25 April 2021

And they were
all filled
with the
Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:3-4

WELCOME

For Your Prayers



The rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly remained severely restricted, and the state exercised strict control over media and civil society. Three activists were convicted in a trial concerning their participation in protests in Thailand and comments made on social media. There was no progress on investigations into a number of enforced disappearances.

Various criminal code provisions and restrictive decrees were used to imprison activists and to suppress the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. Broadcast media, print media and civil society activity remained under stringent state control. Political parties other than the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party remained banned. Amnesty international

Christian activities are closely watched by the Communist authorities. Some churches are registered, but authorities heavily monitor them. House churches are forced to meet underground as they are considered illegal gatherings. This is especially true in rural areas.

Christian property is regularly damaged, and possessions are confiscated. Opposition is heightened when a convert's family or the local authorities rally the local community against them, sometimes through local village meetings or by seeking the support of local religious leaders.

Life is especially difficult for converts to Christianity, who are at risk of persecution from their family and the local authorities. Provinces in the north, where the Hmong minority is concentrated, and regional villages in the south have traditionally been difficult places for Christians to live. The local authorities in these areas still seem intent on removing any Christian influence. Open Doors 2021

wind and fire Receive the Gift

Sermon Notes

1. Wind and Fire (Acts 2:1-13).

The day of Pentecost (meaning *fifty* days) came seven weeks after Passover. It marked the harvest festival (2Chronicles 8:13). Devout Jewish pilgrims from around the world visited Jerusalem for the occasion. The city's population would swell to many times its usual size. Jesus' ascension took place forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3). Ten days later came the Pentecost that changed the world.

A *sound* like a rushing wind, but not wind. What *seemed* like fire, but was not fire. *Speech* in languages that seemed like 'other' languages. It caused a public consternation. Some said the disciples were drunk! What was it all about?

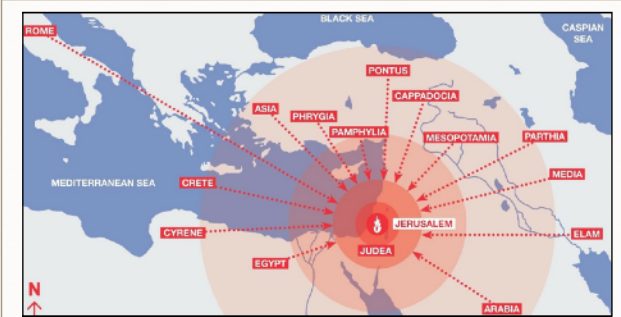
2. Not drunk! Peter explains - "this is that" (Acts 22:14-21)

The 120 were not drunk, for starters, it was way too early in the day! Instead he quotes from Joel identifying these as the last days, the days of Messiah's reign. An era astonishingly different from all that preceded.

The Holy Spirit is no longer the prerogative of a select few, but is for all God's people, without social distinction. The fire by which the tabernacle and temple was consecrated, now falls on every believer. The languages by which the world was divided at Babel are now reversed and the nations are to be gathered together in Christ.

Peter applies the entire passage to "Jesus of Nazareth" (2:22-41)

- v.22 his life and ministry were well known and familiar to the crowd. Jesus and the events of his ministry needed no introduction. He was current news!
- v.23 his death, this had no doubt been brought into focus by the recent executions just outside the city. In the purposes of God he had been 'handed over' to the crowd and 'killed by sinful men'. "The same event is attributed simultaneously to the purposes of God and the wickedness of men" (John Stott)



- v.24-32 Peter quoted David's Psalm 16 as speaking of the 'resurrection of the Messiah'. After all, they knew where David lay buried. His tomb was well known, whereas Jesus was not abandoned in death, his body did not see decay.
- v.33-36 Instead God raised Jesus from death and exalted him to the highest place. Peter quotes Psalm 110 to demonstrate that the Messiah is David's LORD; exalted to the right hand of God.
- v.37 Profoundly implicated in such a terrifying miscarriage of justice the people are 'cut to the heart'. What can they do?

3. Repent and be baptised (2:37-39)

A new direction is called for, a change of heart and mind. This should be made evident in the act of receiving baptism. At that time Gentiles converting to become Jews were baptised.

There is a twofold blessing: they will receive forgiveness, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. To be baptised would symbolise their new beginning, a fresh cleansing, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In this way they would themselves become a holy people, temples of the living God as the letters were later to explain.

These gifts were offered then, and they are offered now. They are for you and me if are willing to change our thinking and receive them. Peter declares "God's" promise is to you and, and to your children, and to all who are far away - all whom the Lord our God calls to himself" (v.39).