



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on August 28th 2022 at 10:45, meeting at Bethesda Chapel.

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Our service today is being led by Tim, and is a family service, looking at holidays - as it is a Bank Holiday weekend! A sunny weekend as well!

Morag plays the piano as we gather, then Tim welcomes everyone (after adjusting his microphone!) to this service, when we will be thinking about holidays, and memories of past holidays,. Maybe some of us will have had the opportunity to share a holiday recently, and we will be thinking a little bit this morning about holiday times. Tim asked the congregation how they felt before they went on holiday, with some differing responses, and the answer Tim was hoping for, excited.

Tim then asked a question: "Can raisins dance?" Rather random, one said yes, in the mixer! Tim then conducted a very scientific experiment, pouring some lemonade into a glass and adding raisins! There was some discussion as to whether they would float on the surface, or sink to the bottom, whilst others said they may hover!! In fact, they sank to the bottom - apart from one which floated to the surface then sank!

Tim had tried this yesterday, when it worked beautifully, but the lemonade had gone a bit flat overnight, however just when Tim was about to despair, the raisins started to rise to the top, then slowly sink again, because of the carbon dioxide in the lemonade - so raisins can dance, as though they are excited!

This reminded Tim of Psalm 149, which he read:

Praise the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing

and make music to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes delight in his people;

he crowns the humble with victory.

Tim then quoted from Philippians 4, Rejoice in the Lord always.

We sang: (all singing it through once, then as a round!)

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!
Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I say, Rejoice!

Author: Evelyn Turner CCLI SONG #4201955 Copyright ©1967 Curb Word Music (Admin. by / Small Stone Media BV, Holland (Admin. in the UK/Eire by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org)) CCL No 5664

Brenda came to lead us in prayer:

"This morning, our prayer is on the screen. I will pray the words in black and please will you all pray the coloured words together. So, let us unite in our prayer.

We come to You, our Father God, this morning and thank You that You are our loving Father and are beside us in our lives and here in our time of worship today.

We bring our prayers of thanks and intercession before You.

Today, as we think together of what we can learn from 'Holidays', we remember that You once asked Your disciples to 'come to a quiet place and get some rest'.

Thank You for times of rest and relaxation.

Some of us have new holidays planned and many of us have memories of holidays past, places we have visited and people we shared that time with.

Lord, we thank You for plans and for happy memories of good things we have done.

At this time of Bank holiday and the soon to end school holidays, many are travelling, which can be challenging, with delays and changes.

We pray for safe and unhindered travel for many who are on the move.

As we travel, maybe with the help of television, we see many interesting and new things - natural and amazing wonders, fresh sights and beautiful colours.

Thank You for the wonders of Your creation.

Holidays give us a chance to do new things - fun for children on the beach, activities to enjoy, new people to meet, families to visit and a change and rest from life's normality.

Thank You for all these things and may we appreciate them.

However, Lord, we know that many people cannot dream of a holiday just now, because of the ever increasing financial problems. We also know that the government and the incoming Prime Minister have challenges as to what help can be given.

We bring this situation to You, Lord, and ask for Your help and guidance.

Others cannot think of holidays because of wars and disturbances, when all they want is peace and security and their family safely around them. Many have had to flee to other countries and some are in our midst because of this.

Lord, be always beside them and may there be an end to all war and destruction in the world.

We think of people who cannot travel at the moment, as they are not well or struggling with mobility or waiting for appointments. Some are mourning the death of loved ones.

Lord, be beside them, giving strength, comfort and healing.

Many are broken hearted because of the loss of loved ones in terrible circumstances and others are afraid because of what has happened in their neighbourhood.

Heavenly Father, we ask for an end to violence and Your comfort for the sorrowing.

Most of our church activities have been taking a holiday recently and are now planning and preparing for a return to normal. This is the time for a fresh start for leaders and those who come along.

We pray that You will be with all involved in this time of restart.

Our leadership team have not had a holiday, Lord, and our Pastor and Deacons have had much to consider, prepare and plan throughout the summer.

We thank You for their continued commitment to us and to You and pray for Your presence with them.

We especially pray today for Pakistan where there are terrible floods. We ask that the rains may cease and the help asked for will arrive quickly.

Heavenly Father, we know You care for us and we ask that You will forgive us for our wrong doing and be close beside us as we go home later on and continue through this week. Please help us to cope with any problems and have happiness too, whether we be at home or away on holiday. May we witness for You wherever we are and wherever we go.

We offer our prayers to You in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen."

Tim continued with our theme of holidays, asking first about what we might pack for a holiday - in the form of a crossword with anagrams for the clues. The answers all reminded Tim of essentials of the christian faith. All the clues had a picture if the anagram was impossible, but in fact the congregation managed to solve all the anagrams.

Things We Might Pack for a Holiday



The first clue was **second tum**, which became **documents**, Tim then added to the screen Acts 4:12, 'Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved'. We need to know Jesus to get to our final destination.

Clue 2. **Spam - maps**, needed to find our way round, Proverbs 3, 5 and 6, 'Trust in the Lord will all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.'

Clue 3. **Hen op - phone**. It's needed to keep in touch, may have maps, take photographs to make memories, sharing happy times.

We need to be in communication with God at all times - which we call prayer, the network never breaks down, and is not just for emergencies but for everyday.

1 Thess 5, 16-18, 'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.'

Clue 4. **Her crag - charger** - a phone no good without power, so we need a charger. Our source of power is God himself, filling us with his Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13, 'May the God of hope fill you with al joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

Tim shared that this reminded him of a Doug Horley song, shown on the screen, which Doug introduces and demonstrates the actions. (I was expecting a different Doug Horley song, one we have sung at LRBC in the past, entitled "May the God of hope", but instead we sang "I Love you" - another quiet DuggieDugDug song). If you're reading or singing this at home, and wish to, you can use whatever actions you like as no-one else will see them!

I love you more than words can say, it's true-
that I love you;
fill me with your love, fill me with your peace,
fill me Lord with you.

I need you more than words can say, it's true
that I need you;
fill me with your love, fill me with your peace,
fill me Lord with you.

Holy One, oh I so love you;
Holy One, oh I so need you;
Holy One, I will sing your praises
forever and ever, Amen.

Author: Doug Horley CCLI #:6144591 Copyright © 2011 Daybreak Music/Elevation www.songsolutions.org CCL No 5664

Clue 5. **OK, sob - books** - we may enjoy reading and have more time to read when away, but there is one book we always need in our christian lives, the Bible. 2 Timothy 3 v16 reminds us that 'All scripture is God- breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.'

Clue 6. **Dim nieces - (hoping no-one actually has any dim nieces!) Answer medicines** - these may be needed to keep well, we might have a pre-existing condition or we may need to take some just in case. Physical medicine is helpful, but Proverbs 17:22, says 'A cheerful heart is good medicine' reminding us that we should maintain our focus on God all our lives not just on holiday!

Clue 7. **I store tiles** - toiletries, we may not know what will be available in our accommodation, and we use them to keep us clean, 2 Timothy 2 12, 'If anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.'

God's cleansing, his forgiveness, is available to us because of Jesus on the cross, and when we are clean and forgiven we can be useful servants to him.

Clue 8. **Serum can** - suncream, we need it to protect us from the harm of the sun's rays. There are lots of verses in the Bible about Gods protection. Psalm 91, 1 and 2 say 'Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty can say to him, "You are my defender and protector. You are my God, in you I trust."

Things We Might Pack for a Holiday



These are examples of how some of the things we can take on holiday can remind us of our christian life.

We sang: (played by Morag, to the tune Finlandia) a hymn reminding us of our trust in God.

We trust in you, our shield and our defender;
we do not fight alone against the foe:
strong in your strength, safe in your keeping tender,
we trust in you, and in your name we go.
Strong in your strength, safe in your keeping tender,
we trust in you, and in your name we go.

We trust in you, O Captain of salvation!
in your dear name, all other names above:
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
our prince of glory and our king of love.
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
our prince of glory and our king of love.

We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,
and needing more each day your grace to know;
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
'We trust in you, and in your name we go.'
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
'We trust in you, and in your name we go.'

We trust in you, our shield and our defender:
yours is the battle yours shall be the praise!
When passing through the gates of dazzling splendour,
victors, we rest in you through endless days.
When passing through the gates of dazzling splendour,
victors, we rest in you through endless days.

(Jubilate Hymns Version of We Rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender) Author: Edith Gilling Cherry, CCLI SONG # 969384
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Tim continued, asking how we could travel to our holidays,- "getting there," some answers were cars, boats, planes, camper van (that was Brenda and Trevor!) hovercraft, coach, train, bicycle, motorbike, even tram! Tim concentrated on **boats**, thinking first of boats mentioned in the Bible - including The Ark, fishing boats, sailing boats (including Paul, who was shipwrecked) Tim drew our attention to how the boats in the bible often speak of God's protection or rescue through difficulties and storms. He showed some pictures on the screen, Noah's ark, Moses' basket, Jesus stilling the storm, Paul's shipwreck, when all managed to get to safety. They all reminded us of how God is a faithful protector, and Tim illustrated this by inviting us all to make paper boats - some more successfully than others! Tim then suggested we write a very short 'Thank you' for God's protection and bring the boats forward to attach to the flip chart at the front of the church.

(Whilst we were able to record the service, those watching on YouTube can't see how to do this as Judith, who was operating the camera, was carried away with folding and didn't focus constantly on Tim - oops) Some of us may remember making paper boats in Sunday school! I'm not sure we were allowed water to see if they would float though.

Tim then asked if anyone had travelled on a plane? He works in the industry but still find it hard to believe that a plane will fly - we need faith, in the pilot, in the engineers, in the unseen force that is holding the plane up! The aircraft stays up because the engines suck up air, and the airflow gives lift. Something invisible can have visible results, such as the wind, which we can't see but we can see the branches blowing. Tim demonstrated this, taking a bottle, adding a powder to it, then liquid, and then placing a balloon over the neck of the bottle - all quite challenging . The balloon started to inflate - albeit slowly. (Tim had actually used baking powder, and added vinegar, resulting in the production of carbon dioxide. We couldn't see the gas, or CO₂, but could see its effect, just as on a plane). We can't see God, but we can still have faith in him, and he made himself visible in Jesus.

Our final song reminds us to trust in God and have faith in him, even in difficult circumstances. Our tithes and offerings were also collected whilst we sang - to a video shown on the screen.

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus name.

Christ alone, Cornerstone, weak made strong in the Saviour's love
through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone, Cornerstone...

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found;
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless stand before the throne.

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Tim prayed:

'Father, we thank you that you are such a great protector God; that we can build our lives on Christ the Cornerstone; that even in the fiercest storm of life he is there to protect and be with us. Thank you for what you have done for us, as illustrated by these boats behind us; how are have protected us in our lives and how you continue to do so. We want just to thank you this morning, to be cheerful in our hearts, and we want to offer these gifts to you this morning as a small token of our thankfulness to you for all that you have done for us. In Jesus name. Amen'

Alec then shared the notices for this week which were displayed on the screen and include the restarting of the Ladies Afternoon on Tuesday and restarting of Orbit on Thursday. The church building itself will be open all day on Tuesday from 9 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock in the evening. The hall will also be open on Saturday morning from 10:30 am to allow for more sorting out and tidying up!

We closed as we joined together in saying:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.