



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on July 24th 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 Family all-age service today is led by Tim, with the Commonwealth Games being the focus..

Trevor plays the piano as we assemble for worship, before Tim welcomes everyone to Bethesda Chapel. (These are his notes from the service)

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to BBC. There's a lot of sport happening at the moment. We're going to be focusing on sports today. We can learn a lot from sports about our faith. Top sports people do what they do to earn honours and accolades. But when it comes to our faith, the only one worthy of all honour is Jesus.

So Tim invited us to sing a song we haven't sung for some time, shown on the screen: Jesus Shall Take the Highest Honour

Jesus shall take the highest honour, Jesus shall take the highest praise;
let all earth join heaven in exalting the name which is above all other names.
Let's bow the knee in humble adoration, for at His name every knee must bow;
let every tongue confess He is Christ God's only Son,
Sovereign Lord we give You glory now.

For all honour and blessing and power belongs to You, belongs to You.
All honour and blessing and power belongs to You, belongs to You,
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God

Songwriter: Chris Bowater CCLI SONG # 451380 COPYRIGHT@1985 Sovereign Lifestyle Music, CCL No 5664

Tim introduced a short prayer of thanks: asking the congregation to join in with short one sentence prayers shouted aloud, beginning: Thank you, Jesus, for...

Coming into our world to give your life for us.
My health.
Our wonderful world.
Gift of your life
The sunshine..... and the rain.
Our friends and families.
Your provision in our meals each day.
Your love for all of us.

Tim concluded by saying: "Thank you Jesus for all these things we've brought before you today. You are so wonderful we want to give you praise and honour. Amen"

Commonwealth Games Quiz: The Commonwealth Games is taking place in Birmingham starting this next week - but how much do we know about the Commonwealth Games?

(Tim announced a quiz, and Victor volunteered to keep the score for us. It was shown on the screen, and we were divided into 2 teams - but neither team did very well!!)

Tim continued:

"We're going to think about four Commonwealth Games sports and see what we can learn from them.

Cricket

It won't be any surprise to anyone who knows me that we're looking at cricket first. There's a women's cricket event at the Commonwealth Games. Perhaps the most important piece of equipment in cricket is the cricket ball (not much game without that!) Throwing and catching are a key point of the game - and a strong throwing arm that can throw the ball a long way, fast, is an advantage. (Tim and Trevor try throwing and catching a cricket ball - being very careful as they shouldn't have been playing with a ball inside!!)

But suppose we took the most powerful thrower of a cricket ball to the north coast of France and asked them to throw the ball all the way across the English channel to land on the white cliffs of Dover. How would they fare? They couldn't do it! It's just not possible with human strength only. The ball would fall way short. This reminds us what the Bible says about our lives falling short of God's standards, no matter how we try with human strength: Romans 3:23. That's the bad news, but the good news is in the following verse, which tells us that God's grace has solved the problem - Jesus has stepped in to help us, and we can be justified (declared innocent in God's sight) because of what Jesus has done. He didn't have to, but he did! He humbled himself to help us."

We lift our voices in Song: You Laid Aside Your Majesty, which Trevor plays for us on the piano:

You laid aside Your majesty, gave up everything for me,
suffered at the hands of those You had created.

You took all my guilt and shame, when You died and rose again;
now today You reign, in heaven and earth exalted.

I really want to worship You, my Lord,
You have won my heart and I am Yours for ever and ever;
I will love You.

You are the only one who died for me, gave Your life to set me free,
so I lift my voice to You in adoration.

AUTHOR:Noel Richards CCLI SONG # 78275 COPYRIGHTS@1985 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL no 5664

Tim moves on to the next sport:

What's the next sport? (We watch a short clip of Rocky Balboa training.) "The sport is boxing! Some of the Commonwealth Games sports are quite new, but boxing has

been around in some form for a long time, even back to the times when the Bible was written, and Paul talks a bit about it in his letters. Paul probably knew about the Isthmian Games, called that because they took place on the isthmus of Corinth. They included boxing competitions. So it's not surprising that Paul, when he wrote to the church in Corinth, used sports illustrations to make his point: 1 Corinthians 9: 25 - 27. Competitors in the Isthmian Games didn't just turn up and hope for the best. Paul says they went into strict training, even though they were just competing for a crown of leaves that would soon fade."

(We have a go at a form of training - planking - holding our body tense, at least Tim and Victor do! They both managed a minute, with Victor seeming more comfortable than Tim, even though Victor was wearing his jacket!)

Tim continues again: "Paul compares this to what he was trying to do as a Christian - he was preaching to others, telling them about the gift of grace they could find in Jesus. He wanted others to receive it too. When they did, that was a reward that wouldn't fade - but would last for ever. So Paul also went into training - he disciplined himself so he could be effective. As Christians, the training and discipline we need includes praying, reading God's Word, having fellowship with other believers, focusing our minds and avoiding distractions. We don't work to be saved, but when we are saved by God's grace, we need to train and be prepared for the work that God has for us."

The congregation joined in with some suggestions for our training regime: prayer, reading the bible, meeting with others for fellowship, fasting, avoiding distractions in our lives, before Tim rounds up, pointing out that some great advice on this is in an old song from the 1880s: again shown on the screen.

Song with Offering: Take Time to be Holy,

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
by looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
and run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

Tim led an offering prayer: "Father God, we thank you for all you've done for us. We pray that we will heed the advice that Paul gave the Corinthians and we've heard in the song, to take time, to prepare,, to be holy, to seek your face, to be with you, so that you can prepare us, with the Holy Spirits help, for the work you've got for us to do. We thank you now for these gifts, that they too will be used for that same purpose. We ask in Jesus name. Amen."

Tim Moves on to our next sport:

"The next sport is netball. Where boxing is an individual sport, netball is definitely not - it needs a team. Netball has a court with three parts and there are 7 players on the team, all of whom have different roles, but who have to work together to succeed."(Tim shows pictures of the various areas of a netball court on the screen, and reminds some - and informs others - of the different playing positions and roles)

"Netball is very much like being a Christian. There is an individual aspect to our faith, but we are not alone - we're in a team called the Church. Just like in netball, we all have different, unique roles to play in the church. Paul wrote to the Corinthians about this again. He used a n illustration not of a sports team, but of the human body, with all its parts being different but working together: 1 Corinthians 12: 12, 27.

It's great to be part of a team - see Ecclesiastes 4: 9, 10. On the positive viewpoint, teamwork makes our work more effective, but also teams are there to help when things go wrong also."

We illustrate the power of teamwork by showing that one paper cup can't support someone's weight, but a group working together can do, Colin being the willing 'volunteer' for this exercise!!

We learn a memory verse to remind us of what we've learned here: Ephesians 4:16, before singing a song that thanks Jesus for what he's done, and also celebrates our life together.

Teamwork: Memory Verse

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4 verse 16

We join in Song: We Really Want to Thank You Lord

We really want to thank You Lord ,we really want to bless Your name,
Hallelujah, Jesus is our King.

We really want to thank You Lord ,we really want to bless Your name,
Hallelujah, Jesus is our King.

We thank You Lord for Your gift to us
Your life so rich beyond compare
The gift of Your body here on earth
Of which we sing and share
We really want to thank You Lord....

We thank you Lord for our life together,
to live and move in the love of Christ,
tenderness which sets us free
to serve you with our lives.
We really want to thank you Lord....

AUTHOR: Edward Baggett CCLI SONG # 150904 COPYRIGHTS@1974, 1975 Celebration, CCL No 5664

Tim again invites the congregation to share in praying for others, and using the radio mike, some pray aloud for our church team:

Heavenly Father, we just pray for harmony in our church, for us all to come together, all to share our different gifts, and all to love one another. Please Lord, help our church to get back on its feet, to get full of you again, in Jesus name, Amen.

Father God we pray for our families, and the family of the church and the persecuted churches in the world, and for all those lonely in their marriages and in their homes, and we ask for the Holy Spirit to be in this church Lord.

Father God we thank you for our team, the church you've put us in. Thank your all the gifts that you've given us. I pray that we will all be willing to shared use those gifts, whatever they may be, in your service, as part of being your church. We thank you Lord. In Jesus name, Amen.

Athletics

Our final sport is another mentioned in the Bible - running, or athletics. There are many references to running the race - but these references make it clear we're talking about a long-distance race, not a sprint. In a long-distance race, we need perseverance to keep going when things get tough.

There's a great passage in Hebrews 12, verses 1 and 2 which tells us about this. It encourages us that:

Running with Perseverance

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12: 1, 2

- There are 'witnesses' who've gone before whose example helps us to keep going
- The race is 'marked out for us' - God knows our route
- We can look to Jesus for help

(Tim does a visual demonstration with a cardboard tube and a sheet of paper, before introducing our final song, one Tim hadn't heard before and so probably new to most of us, but with quite a catchy chorus we were able to join in with as it became more familiar)

Our final song is based on these verses: and is again on the screen

Song: Let Us Run with Perseverance

Let us run with perseverance the race set out before us,
let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

In the beginning the word was with God,
through Him all of us were made;
He began a work in us, a good work to perfect
until He returns again.

Let us run with perseverance the race set out before us....

Since we are surrounded by heaven's cheering crowd
let us throw off every chain,
for all that opposes us look to Jesus who endured
so we'll not lose heart again.

Let us run with perseverance the race set out before us.....

For the joy before Him, He suffered the cross,
He defeated death and shame.
Now He reigns in glory at the right hand of God
He is calling us by name.

Let us run with perseverance the race set out before us.....

AUTHOR: David Lyle Morris CCLI SONG #1588960 COPYRIGHT© 2000 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

Notices for the week were shown on the screen, reminding us particularly of the Church Members Meeting on Tuesday evening.

And finally, we share together 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.

Commonwealth Games Quiz

1. How many times have the Commonwealth Games been held? (including when they used to be called by other names, but not including Birmingham)

A. 17
B. 19
C. 21
D. 23

Commonwealth Games Quiz

4. How many different Commonwealth Associations' teams are expected to participate in Birmingham?

A. 62
B. 72
C. 82
D. 92

Commonwealth Games Quiz

8. Over how many days do the Birmingham Games take place? (including Opening and Closing Ceremonies)

A. 10
B. 12
C. 14
D. 16

Commonwealth Games Quiz

2. How many years is it since the Commonwealth Games were last held in England?

A. 4
B. 8
C. 16
D. 20

Commonwealth Games Quiz

5. How many athletes are expected to compete at the Birmingham Games?

A. 1571
B. 2018
C. 2951
D. 3873

Commonwealth Games Quiz

9. In what year were the first Commonwealth Games held? (they called the 'British Empire Games')

A. 1926
B. 1930
C. 1934
D. 1938

Commonwealth Games Quiz

3. How many different sports will there be at this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?

A. 16
B. 20
C. 23
D. 30

Commonwealth Games Quiz

6. Which country is expected to have the biggest team at the Birmingham Games?

A. Australia
B. England
C. India
D. South Africa

Commonwealth Games Quiz

10. What is the name of the Birmingham Games mascot?

A. Brum
B. Norbo
C. Dudley
D. Perry

Commonwealth Games Quiz

7. How many different venues are being used in and around Birmingham for the Games?

A. 11
B. 13
C. 15
D. 19



Answers: 1 - C, 21, 2 - D 20, 3 - 20 see next slide to see how Tim counted it!
4 - B 72, 5 - D 3873, 6 - A Australia (434 athletes), 7 - C 15 - although its actually 16, but one is in London, for track cycling 8 - B 12, 9 - B 1930 held in Hamilton Canada, 10 - D Perry (the multicoloured Bull, named after Perry Barr, an area in the centre of Birmingham)