

Beulah Update: Weds 26th August

This week's theme is:

Take up your cross!



1. Worship resources

- On Sunday 30th August we will be holding our next service via the online platform Zoom at **10-30 a.m.** This will include a reflection from Craig Mairs, the Principal at the Hulme Grammar School. It would be lovely if as many as possible could join in this service. There will be a chance to ask him a few questions at the end of the service- plenty to ask given the news about education over the last few weeks and the impact of his Christianity on his work! The hymns are likely to be 63 – O worship the King and 529- From heaven you came helpless babe.

The ID you need is 483-214-0593 and the password is 92315. Please do share with any family or friends or former members of the congregation if you can.

If you don't have internet you can join in by ringing one of the following numbers:

Dial by your location

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

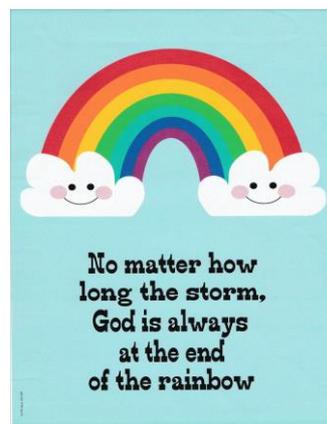
+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

Several members have joined us by dialing in on the phone so give it a go. Ask for any advice!

- The service on Sunday 6th Sept will include reflections from Judith Haughton so again we hope you can join us- usual log in details on Zoom (as above)
- Attached is this week's service from the Vine. Our thanks to Dorothy.
- Usual services and reflections from the home pages of the NWBA and the URC; from Macedonia website: [Macedonia](http://www.macedonia.org.uk) and from Trinity Baptist <http://www.trinitybaptist.co.uk/recordedsermons/> and Watchet- <https://www.watchetbaptist.org.uk/worship>
- Thanks to Julie for putting up a new poster on the railings at Church



- 2. News from our fellowship and issues to pray for**

We are asking everyone to set aside 20 minutes on Saturday mornings from 10.00 until 10-20 and pray together for all the members of our congregation in their different situations, and in particular for the people and issues below:

- Please continue to ring people to ease the isolation and anxiety during the extra restrictions in Oldham.
- Pray for all those we know who are grieving after the death of loved ones- for Elaine, Steph and Vicky; for the family of Irene (Vera's sister-in-law); for the family of Edith; for the family of John; for Dorothy, Sheila and Joe and their families.
- Pray for those with health worries and those worrying about them, especially as visiting is not allowed- for Wally, Gloria's husband, who had an operation on Tuesday in Crumpsall hospital; for Rev Ian Cook, a Minister who has been to preach at Beulah, and who had a stroke last week, which has left him paralyzed down one side and unable to speak- he is in Fairfield Hospital; for Peter still waiting to get a date for his major operation (one operation for skin cancer has been cancelled) ; for Millie; for Elsa, and Faith supporting her; for Mary H who has had pacemaker fitted this week; for Tom W.
- Pray for those with other anxieties- for Carol and her housing situation.
- Pray for the children and teachers as they return to school next week. We know this will be difficult and will cause anxiety, and that many children will find it very hard to get back into the routine of learning after such a long period away from school. Pray especially for Harley, as he makes the transition to Failsworth School and again this has been more difficult without the usual transition activities.
- Congratulations to Anna Harding on her great GCSE results! She will start A levels in Accountancy, Sociology and Geography at Ashton 6th Form College.



- **A prayer from Roots on the web**

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.

Reproduced with permission.)

Lord God, you reproached Peter because he had only human concerns; but Peter just wanted to protect the one he loved.

We pray for people the world over who find themselves in difficult situations.

We pray that they would all have someone to care for them and lift them before you.

We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith: for all who are misunderstood, for asylum seekers who flee real danger in their homeland.

We pray for those who work tirelessly to address wrongs.

We pray for people whose lives don't always work out right, through their fault, or through no fault of their own.

We pray for the people in our lives who need your protection, Lord, that we will always be faithful in prayer for them.

Amen.

3. Message from the Leaders

- The Leaders met last week to discuss our next steps. Sadly the extra restrictions in Oldham at the moment meant that we did not think it was wise to try and re-open the church building as we had hoped. We agreed that we should continue with Zoom services for the next three weeks and we will meet again as Leaders on Thursday 10th Sept. We envisage that at that point we

may move to services on alternate Sundays (either by Zoom or in Church, depending on the situation then) and on the alternate week we will ask members to join in a Bible study, which will be led by Graham Tarn, one of the Ministers in the URC Missional Partnership. We will of course review the situation at our meeting and welcome any thoughts or suggestions before it. We also felt that we should make the newsletter a fortnightly publication now, rather than a weekly one, so the next issue will be published on Weds 9th Sept. If there is special news to share, such as the outcomes of any meetings we will add an extra edition! Please continue to pray for the church and the Leaders.

- A message about this week's Bible story from Roots on the Web: Matthew 17 v 21-28

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.
Reproduced with permission)

- The passage from Matthew is the second half of the narrative in Caesarea Philippi. Jesus is unpacking what the titles Messiah and Son of God will mean: he will undergo great suffering and rejection. He will die and then be raised on the third day. Peter's response is understandable, but it echoes the temptation narrative, when the devil offers Jesus great power if he abandons God's way. Peter has gone from getting something spectacularly right to getting something spectacularly wrong! If Jesus himself will have to suffer, his followers must be prepared for suffering, too. Jesus highlights the downside of owning his story: there is sacrifice involved. Anyone who wants to step into this story must be prepared to deny themselves and carry their cross – meaning, prepared to give up their life. But, again, there is a promise of liberation: anyone prepared to give up their life for the kingdom of God will find the life they were always looking for. Jesus' story follows a narrative arc of life, suffering and descent into death, and then ascent into glory. This is the story that he invites his disciples and us to share.

4. Weekly Challenges

- Listen to the song by Graham Kendrick- " My Lord what love is this?"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lla89XoyBE
The chorus is as follows:
Amazing love, O what sacrifice
The Son of God given for me
My debt he pays, and my death he dies
That I might live, that I might live
- What can you do for Jesus this week, so that his sacrifice was not in vain?
- Keep a (private) list of all the things you notice that you are thankful for. By doing so, build up a story that is trustworthy. Don't tell anyone – keep this as a reminder and an inspiration for you when other 'worldly' stories crowd in

5. Answers to last week's quiz on odd one out

1. Which of the following best describes how scientists classify different rocks?

B- where they are found.

2. What type of rocks are formed from great heat or pressure?

A- metamorphic rocks

3. What type of rocks are rocks that came from outer space?

D- meteorites

4. True or false: rocks are constantly changing from one type of rock to another, but it can take millions of years?

A- True

5. What are layers of sedimentary rock called?

B- strata

6. This week's quiz on sacrifices in the Bible!

1. What offering did Cain bring to the Lord?

a) silver b) seven bullocks and seven rams c) fruit of the ground d) none

2. Who did God tell Abraham to offer as a burnt offering?

a) His son Ishmael b) his son Isaac c) his servant Eleizah d) his wife Sarah

3. Psalm 51 tells us that the "sacrifices of God are.."

a) silver and gold b) the first fruits of the crop c) obedience and a listening ear d) a broken spirit

4. Who made this promise to the Lord? "Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

a) Jephthah b) Jeconiah c) Jeroboam d) Joab

5. The Lord spoke to Job's three friends and told them that he was angry with them, and that they should make a burnt offering and get Job to pray for them. Why?

a) They had told Job to curse God and die

b) They had told Job that his wife should curse God and die.

c) They had not spoken of God what is right.

d) They had accused Job of sinning.

7. Radio Active Exercise classes!

Dorothy sent this information through:

"Brought to you in partnership with Age UK Oldham, Oldham Community Leisure and Oldham Community Radio are starting a 10 minute **fun chair based exercise class** every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 2.30 p.m.** called "Radio Active" starting from the **24th August 2020** for four weeks. The sessions are delivered by Neil Wise (Postural Stability Instructor) bringing a variety of easy exercises from mobility, balance and flexibility exercises. You will need an upright sturdy chair and space to do the exercises. If you require any further information about the classes please contact Jackie Hanley on 0161 207 7000. We hope you can take part, its only 10 minutes of your time. The simplest way to listen if you are in Oldham or immediate surrounding areas is to tune into Oldham Community Radio via FM radio on **99.7MHz FM**. Alternatively go online to:

<https://www.oldhamcommunityradio.com/listen-online/>

Get moving!!