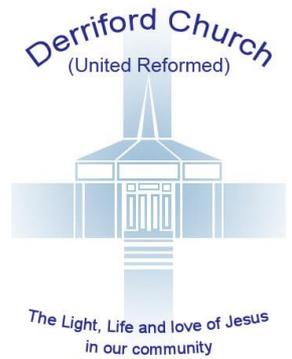
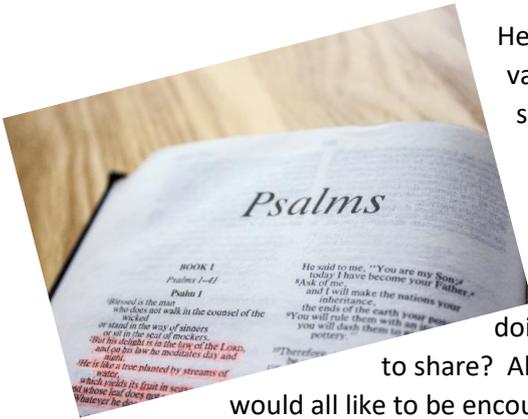


DERRIFORD URC NEWS SHEET



THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY

16TH MAY 2021



Hello Folks. Welcome to this week's News Sheet. I do hope that it is of value to you and helping with communication. If you have any suggestions about what to include, please let me know.

A number of weeks ago we started a sermon series looking at favourite Bible stories with the hope that it would encourage us all to read our Bible more. How have you been doing? Have you been changed, challenged at all? Have you found it easy to get into? Or hard? Are you doing it with one of the audio versions? I'd love to know if you would like to share? Also, anyone up for putting a little piece in the news sheet? I am sure we would all like to be encouraged.

Or if you have not got round to starting yet, maybe you planned to but then simply forget, may I suggest that you try again? I promise you; you won't regret it!

Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

Elijah's Persistent Prayer

An Australian town had experienced a hard drought and there was a special prayer meeting to pray for rain. The church building was packed, but the minister told them to go back home - no one had come expecting to have their prayers answered... THERE WASN'T AN UMBRELLA IN SIGHT! This story illustrates that there is very often a big difference between what we say about prayer and what we actually believe about prayer.

The book of James contains a lot of teaching about prayer. He states that one of the reasons we don't receive what we desire is we don't pray. He tells us that if we lack wisdom, we should pray (James 1:5); if we are suffering, we should pray (5:13); if we are sick, we should call for the elders to anoint us with oil and pray for us (5:14); we should confess our sins one to another?" (5:16)

If we believe that prayers have such power, do we pray as often as we should? It is common for many of us to feel we don't know how to pray or what to say – and James understood that, so he gave us an example of how we can pray. He referred to the example of Elijah's prayer in 1 Kings 18:41-46.

The King of Israel was a man named Ahab, and he was married to a Philistine woman named Jezebel.



Jezebel had a reputation for wickedness, and partly because of her influence, Ahab and the nation of Israel had fallen into a kind of "hybrid paganism." They apparently still prayed to Yahweh, but they also worshipped some wicked pagan gods: Baal and Asherah. God punished Israel with a drought and Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to see whose God would bring rain. Of course, Elijah prevailed, and he then went to the top of Mount Carmel to pray to the Lord as James described.

What can we learn from Elijah's prayer that makes it such a good example for us?

1. Prayer that works takes work! Elijah prays bowed down with his head between his knees. This must have been an extremely uncomfortable way to pray. I believe that Elijah was using this painful posture to help himself focus on the prayer at hand. This reminds us to remain focused on what we are praying for.
2. Prayer that works takes persistence! Notice how many times Elijah prays. He prays 7 times. He kept going with the same prayer until he saw an answer. Elijah kept praying in full faith that God would hear. It may be a good idea that we start keeping a 'Prayer Journal' so that we can remember our conversations with God.
3. Prayer that works takes risks! Elijah was explicitly asking for rain. Use requests that we can measure. Not only did Elijah ask for rain, but he let everyone around him know he was expecting rain. He told his servant to look for rain. Even more than that—he told wicked King Ahab to get ready for it.
4. Prayer that works takes understanding of God's will! God wanted to send rain on Israel. That's why Elijah had come back. To ask for something "in Jesus' name" means you are asking God for something you believe He would want to do. It is asking for those things that will honour Him, that are in accordance with His will
5. Prayer that works takes righteousness with God! On our own, our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6), but Jesus died on the cross so that we could receive His righteousness. The great exchange is that Jesus takes all our sin and gives us all our righteousness. This is why James said, 'The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working'. Because we aren't operating under our own power, we aren't working for our own reputation. And we aren't relying on our own righteousness.

DL Moody, in his book *Prevailing Prayer*, quoted Bishop Joseph Hall, "*It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many they are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be; nor even the theology of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be - which God cares for. Fervency of spirit is that which avails much.*"

Through his persistent prayer, Elijah was able to give final proof that God is in control by ending the drought. As Ahab raced his chariot home to escape the approaching storm, Elijah, in the strength of God, ran before him. Just imagine what we can achieve in God's strength...

Above is a summary of Phil's sermon from Sunday, if you would like to listen to the whole service including, the sermon, the hymns, and prayers you can find it on the link below. It really was a great time and great service well worth watching:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/sunday-9th-may-2021/>

Sunday 9th
May

This coming Sunday morning's service is being led by myself and we are continuing to look at Gideon with the theme of 'The Power of Gideon'. So, if you are able, I'd love you to read through **Judges chapter 6 to 8** (if you do have a little more time why not read through the whole book of Judges?) and last don't forget your homework: What was the power of Gideon?

This week's Notice Sheet



Tuesday: Prayers on Zoom (9:15am)

Tuesday / Wednesday:
World of Jesus (7pm)

Sunday Service (10:30pm)
Both on Zoom and in Person

Advanced Notices

The Next Feast of Fun - 1st June
DURC Film Night - 1st June (*Pay it Forward*)

Today's Theme:
Gideon – The Power of Gideon

Notices

Prayer Pointers...

Praise: I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Psalm 91:2

Church: Pray for the Deacons as they will be cleaning, or organising cleaning, when outside groups start to use our church. Pray for strength, grace, and love to be poured out on them as they go about their many and varied tasks.

Local: Now elections have happened and all candidates are in place, let's join them in their new term of office by praying over all the tasks that will be set before them.

National: Pray for the mental health of our nation as we slowly emerge from lockdown. Let us treat everyone we meet as if they might have a "hidden wound" and surely we can't go far wrong.

Any prayer requests please text / email Lucy on:
lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk / 07503 003250

Future Events...

Feast of Fun The next Feast of Fun will be on **Tuesday 1st June**. Let Helen know if you can help. I am sure she will be ringing around in a few weeks.

Derriford Film Club our next film is on the 1st June at 7pm **Pay it Forward**. Future dates 6th July and 3rd August. If you would like to watch the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW0wCV9iFI>

Nooma. Nooma will start again once we have finished The World of Jesus in June. The next date for your diary is: **15th June 2021**.

Other Church stuff...

Church Hall.



We had the Quantity Surveyors in last week and they are now in the process of giving us the information that we have asked for (basic cost of repair against rebuild). Also, we have had three organisations who would like to start using the church (instead of the hall) at some point after the 17th May. Great News.

Over the next month or so we should be getting the first of the new audio / visual equipment installed, which will help us in both our in person and on-line services.

Mayflower Celebration, Worship event on the Hoe (11th July 10:30am).

Exciting news. On the 11th July there is a Plymouth wide service on the Hoe to celebrate the 400 years since the Mayflower. It starts at 10:30am and more exciting news, we have been loaned a minibus by Plymouth College which will enable us to take people to the Hoe for the service! Isn't that great? ***We have 16 spaces, let me know if you would like to book a seat.***

Also, in the afternoon there are all sorts of things going on, again to celebrating the Mayflower. More details on:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/news/2021/april/book-now-to-see-plymouths-spectacular-international-mayflower-commemoration-event-this-july/>

Please note, if you want to go in the afternoon you will need to book a place (see website above).

Prayer and reading list updating. We are looking to build up our lists of people within the fellowship who would be prepared to read the scriptures or lead us with our prayers of intercession in church. Please let me know which, or both, you'd like to do! We are going to be looking at some simple (and fun) training to help if you have not done it before.



Overseas Mission. I am still looking for ideas for overseas missions that we could support. We have had three suggestions, but I am still looking for more! Have you got any? As I said it would be nice if they were fairly small organisations / projects so we could help make a difference.

I'd like to leave you with a new song that we played at our Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting. It has been a real blessing to me. The song itself has come out of the Thy Kingdom Come initiative (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>) and produced by LICC (<https://licc.org.uk/>) I think It's wonderful. I absolutely love the 'tag line':

“Lord, transform, revive and heal our land”.

What a great Prayer! The song title is: We Seek Your Kingdom, and you can find it on Youtube:

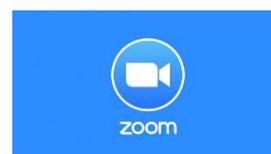
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Lp2mMpSa1E>

I have also attached the Lyrics. Hope you enjoy and it touches your heart as it has mine.

Well God bless you all, hope to see you on Sunday at our worship service either in person or on Zoom.

Mark

Derriford URC Powisland Drive, Derriford Plymouth PL6 6AB Rev Mark Woodhouse Minister Mobile: 07851595578 Email: Mark.woodhouse44@gmail.com <i>God is good and Jesus is exalted and on the throne!</i>	
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**Our Zoom meeting link, for
All our meeting is:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83803659404>