



SUNDAY IN HOME WORSHIP

Sunday 3rd May 2020

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**Technologically connect with those you have planned to*

Announcements

Luke 1:68-79

Prayers in response

Here is Love

Prayers of petition

Ruth 4:1-12

Previous sermon recording (<https://grangebaptist.org.au/covid-19/>)

Prayers in response

This Life I Live

The message of Ruth (<https://youtu.be/S3L8tc1Ma5A>)

A resource from

GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

With physical distancing restrictions slowly beginning to loosen it may be that we will see life starting to head back in the normal direction. Or not. The Lord knows and what he deems is perfectly good. We have psalms of great hope to get us through, and letters like Hebrews and Philippians to draw comfort from. And these are living words that God the Holy Spirit has inspired and personally works through to the glory of God! That's what we expect to be happening as we turn to Ruth this morning.

Just a reminder, please keep checking those weekly emails for updates and encouragements, and a big 'thank you' to those who've replied for our encouragement too! Please keep checking in on one another however you can and let's keep striving to live lives of exemplary submission to God and the authorities he has placed over us.

Though many of us will have started to settle into this new pattern of living, some of us will not have, and others are doing it tough in various ways. And that's completely OK! So, if you're not already praying with others, can I encourage you (if you can) to jump on the Wednesday 8pm prayer time via Zoom? We have many things to ask of God at this time, for his name's sake, for his glory in our lives, for our needs, for the lost and hell-bound. Through our prayers we know that God saves, brings his kingdom of heaven on earth, and grants us peace. But, if you're anything like me, this current time inclines your heart to hibernation, not active prayerfulness. If that's a temptation you're fighting too, please do join me and others as we resolve to call upon our Almighty God who hears our cries and is powerful to save.

READ LUKE 1:68-79

PRAY IN RESPONSE

After hearing God's word to us, let's respond in prayer to him.

- Praise God that, in Jesus, he has come and redeemed his people (verse 68).
- Think about what Zechariah's song reveals to us about the character of God and praise him for who he is: that he is condescending to be present with us (verse 68), that he is faithful to keep his promises to his creatures (verse 70), and that he is kind to change our very state before him (verse 74) and then, furthermore, to sustain us that state all our days (verse 75).
- But notice too who God is revealed to be in Zechariah's song: mighty and sovereign over and in history (verse 69-70), eternal and everlasting through generations (verse 69-70, 73), inherently loving and merciful (verse 72, 78).
- If you've been brought to grieve and flee your sin, and to grab hold of Jesus by faith for new life, rejoice before him in prayer! You, who were in the darkness of the shadow of death, have been purchased by Jesus with his blood for the path of peace (verse 79)!

HERE IS LOVE

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see.

Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee

PRAYERS OF PETITION

Since God is sovereign and pleased to work through the prayers of his people, let's bring our requests to him.

- Keep praying for our world at this time. Pray for those nations you know to be affected by COVID-19 the worst. Ask God to give strength and wisdom to their leaders. Pray that he'd spare lives and that those snatched from Coronavirus would also be snatched from the fire of his just judgement, by his grace.
- Let's keep praying for Scott Morrison and the Premiers and other state leaders around Australia. Pray we'd respond to their leadership well to the glory of God.
- Rejoice with the Engela's for whom God has brought baby Vera Grace safely into their arms! Pray for those you're meeting with this morning.
- As we come to his word in just a moment, ask God to be preparing our hearts to hear the Spirit speak, and ask him to so empower us by his truth that we wouldn't be able to stop telling others of his goodness this week. Pray for people by name whom you're having Gospel conversations with, or pray for boldness with those you long to.
- Pray for gospel-preaching churches you know and members of those churches you love.
- Pray for the persecuted church around the world. Many of you will have nations on your heart where you know the brothers and sisters are so harshly treated. Pray for their perseverance. Pray for justice from their government. Pray for God to be glorified in their suffering.

READ RUTH 4:1-12

LISTEN TO THE SERMON

PRAY IN RESPONSE

After hearing God's word to us, you might like to respond in prayer to him in the following ways:

- Thanking God for his work in history to bring the Saviour of the world.
- Praising him for the infallible love of Jesus that held nothing back for our extremely costly redemption.
- Asking for strength and grace to live out this wondrous self-sacrificial love of Jesus to the glory of God and for the good of the church and the world.

THIS LIFE I LIVE

This life I live is not my own,
For my redeemer paid the price.
He took it to be his alone,
To be his treasure and his prize.
The things of earth I leave behind
To live in worship of my King.
His is the right to rule my life,
Mine is the joy to live for him.

I died to sin upon the cross
I'm bound to Jesus in his death
The old is gone, and now I must
Rely on him for every breath
With every footstep that I tread
What mysteries he has in store
I cannot know what lies ahead
But know that he has gone before.

There is a voice that pierced the grave
A power that rolled the stone away
A sound of life, I know I'm saved
The voice of God has called my name
So I will rise, and in the air
Behold the glory of the King
I will not fear to meet him there
I know my life is hid with him.

Michael Morrow

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THE MESSAGE OF RUTH

Just as with Hebrews, it wasn't all that long ago that we wrapped up a sermon series in Ruth. Would you like to hear Ben read the story in full? Are you keen to hear its message again and draw strength from our God of the Scriptures? You can do that by checking out a video provided here:

<https://youtu.be/S3L8tc1Ma5A>, or you can find a link to it on the church's website by going here: <https://grangebaptist.org.au/covid-19/>.

Like previous weeks, rather than trying to cram this into your Sunday morning in home worship time, this video might be something you'd like to save for Sunday evening. We hope you find it really encouraging!

