



SUNDAY IN-HOME/PARK WORSHIP

Sunday 5th July 2020

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We Will Feast in the House of Zion

A resource from

GRANGE BAPTIST CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning we will be feeding on Isaiah 43:1-7, a hugely comforting portion of God's word. I hope the Lord works powerfully to comfort our hearts as we hear him speak so tenderly and lovingly to us.

Please keep praying that we will be gathered all together next Lord's day, Sunday the 12th of July! Almost everything is in place for that to happen already, but please keep praying for wisdom for any last remaining steps. If you haven't done so yet, please check your email for our 'Re-gathering Plan' and get in touch next week if you have any questions.

If you have the technological capability, be encouraged to set aside an hour from 5-6pm this afternoon and jump on Zoom, especially if you have questions about what our gathering together will look like next Sunday. We'll spend time committing our future gatherings to God in prayer too.

To begin our time of worshipping God this morning, let's cast our mind on the cross of Jesus. There, God's grace for us is displayed so clearly. There, heaven's peace and perfect justice kissed a guilty world in love.

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

When we think about how to pray for our world, where do we begin and where do we end? Pray for our God of all the earth to bring dead hearts to life through faith in Christ. Pray as you are urged (perhaps for the people and rulers of Hong Kong, China, the US, Brazil, India, the UK, or here in Australia).

Pray for the nation of Yemen where a civil war has been ongoing since 2015 causing food and water shortages. Ask God to bring swift stability to the whole nation, and for relief workers to be able to offer desperately needed care. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send in labourers there so many souls can be saved through the preaching of Christ. Pray for the persecuted church in Yemen to stand strong in their confession of Jesus while they are under fire.

Pray that the Lord would bring us together to gather as a church next Sunday! Pray that we would do that in submission to God, our leaders, governing authorities, and one another (as God calls us to in his word).

Rejoice with Heinz & Hannah who celebrated their fourth wedding anniversary this week! Ask God to keep growing them in their love for one another, in wisdom as parents, and in strength as servants of Christ. Pray for those in our congregation according to their needs as you are aware of them.

ISAIAH 43:1-7

GOD RECLAIMS HIS EXILED PEOPLE

READ & PRAY

Read Isaiah 43:1-7 and ask God to comfort us by his powerful word.

INTRODUCTION

Someone put it spot on this week when they said, "It turns out *none* of us had 20-20 vision!" As this year got underway, plans were made in the expectation of smooth sailing, but instead it's been the hurricane of a lifetime. I don't remember anyone forecasting a pandemic, isolation restrictions, economic recession, or political unrest, but this is what we're facing. It might have us asking, "Could there come a time when God leaves us to be wiped out?" In Isaiah 43:1-7, we hear God's wonderfully comforting answer. Despite the fact they have been under his judgment, God acts to reclaim his exiled people by his powerful word! And he is still speaking through this word to us today.

SETTING THE SCENE

The book of Isaiah contains God's promise that he will glorify himself by purifying his idolatrous and sinful people through his judgment of exile. And there is good news in this. Though they have deserved judgment, God will not abandon his people nor will he forget his promises to them. Instead, through his judgment of exile, he will purify them from their sin and idolatry.

- Read Isaiah 42:18-25 (and remember, this is God speaking to his people).
- How are God's people described in verses 18-20?
- In verses 22-25, God's people have been plundered by surrounding nations. But who, ultimately, has done this? (See verses 21, 24-25).

ISAIAH 43:1

“DON'T FEAR; YOU'RE MINE!”

- From what we discover in Isaiah 42:18-25, God's people have lots to fear. But, in Isaiah 43:1, God isn't finished speaking to them. He wants his people to know they are both *created* by him and *redeemed* by him. We are doubly his! Consider the patience and love of God to speak such words of grace to his unfaithful people.

ISAIAH 43:2

“DON'T FEAR; I WILL BRING ABOUT YOUR EXODUS”

- God had brought his people out of captivity before (from Egypt) and, being in exile, they need him to do it again. Can you hear the promise of a second exodus in verse 2?

ISAIAH 43:3-4

“DON'T FEAR; I WILL PAY YOUR RANSOM”

- Isaiah 42:18-25 begs the question, “Why should God give other peoples in exchange for us?” Yet, he does. He has set his love upon us and we are precious in his sight. Can you feel how humbling and reassuring these verses are?

ISAIAH 43:5-7

“DON'T FEAR; I WILL GATHER YOU TOGETHER”

- Having been plundered and exiled in judgment, God promises to gather his people together again. He will be faithful to his people and their offspring. He gave them over to exile for purifying and, by his powerful word, he will demand every one of them back!

WHAT CAN WE TAKE AWAY FROM ISAIAH 43:1-7?

- Praise God that he has kept his promise and reclaimed his people through Christ! And this is all of his doing! (See Ephesians 1:3-6).
- Praise God for our sure hope of being gathered to him once and for all! (See Revelation 7:9-10)
- Let's remember that worshipping idols and closing ourselves off to God is dangerous business (Isaiah 42:17-20), and that God is just in his judgments (Isaiah 42:24-25)
- As those who still await the final stage of our coming out of exile in this world into the new world to come, let's remember our hope is not in ourselves but it is in:
 - God's character (holy and loving)
 - God's work (restoring and protective)
 - God's word (powerful and faithful)
 - God's right concern for his glory (he will do this for his name's sake!)

PASTORAL REFLECTION & PRAYER

Have a listen to the pastoral reflection and then you might like to pray in response to the take away points above.

WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

We will feast in the house of Zion

We will sing with our hearts restored

He has done great things, we will say together

We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire

He is the LORD our God

We are not consumed, by the flood

Upheld, protected, gathered up

Chorus

In the dark of night, before the dawn

My soul, be not afraid

For the promised morning, oh how long?

Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Chorus

Every vow we've broken and betrayed

You are the Faithful one

And from the garden to the grave

Bind us together, bring shalom

Chorus

Sandra McCracken & Joshua David Moore

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