

The city-wide catastrophe comes in the midst of a crippling economic crisis, with rising unemployment and increased food insecurity across the country. Coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown restrictions, the impact on life in this city is devastating. Even before the explosion, there were shortages of essential products like bread and medicine.

“We can’t really bear much more,” said the district superintendent. **“Our people have nothing to eat; how shall we then rebuild the city?”**

You can look at how the Nazarene Church has responded to the crisis on this website: <https://www.eurasiaregion.org/news/>, and please consider if you are able to make a contribution to the relief fund.

Sermon Notes for Sunday 16th August

Message An Everlasting Sign
Speaker Rev Carl McCann
Readings Isaiah 55:10-13

Unfortunately, we do not have sermon notes for this week's service, and we are sorry about this. In the absence of notes, I would encourage you to read and meditate on the passage, and finish your meditation with this prayer.

Lord, remind us once again that there is always a way back when we fail you, for your grace is far greater than our sin.
Amen.

Pastor Karl Stanfield
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Drawing people closer to God:
Loving, Growing, Serving



Here we are, well into the summer, and who would have thought we would still be experiencing these restrictions back in March, when we first went into Covid lockdown? Being in Manchester, our church is subject to additional measures because of the heightened incidence of the pandemic in the Greater Manchester area. We must continue to pray that those working so hard to find cures for Covid are successful in their endeavors. We are grateful that in this country as well as many others, the number of Covid infections is falling.

We hope you enjoyed the two joint services we held with our Llay church recently. It was good that some of our key technical volunteers were able to have at least some time off from their weekly routine of putting together the services. Let us know what you thought of those two meetings, and please pass on any ideas you might have for our online services, so that we can make them as interesting as possible for you.

Two of my favourite contributions have been the personal testimonies of God's goodness and protection. One was from Matthew Purves, in our Easter Sunday service, and the other was from Sylvia, just last week. Would you like to share a word of testimony? Let me know, as I'm sure others tuning in to our services would be interested in your story.

Karl and Ingrid are away this week, so Karl has left me in charge of putting this update together. Lucy is leading Sunday's service, and Jack has put all the content together for the service.

We want to say a big thank you to Lucy and Jack for all they have done this week, and generally, in order that we can continue to have fellowship together, through the power of technology. And remember, technology is a good thing - isn't it true that God gave Moses two tablets, after he had spoken to him on Mount Sinai?

Blessings to you all, and I hope you have a good week ahead.
Mark



Church open for individual prayer

The church sanctuary will be open for individual, silent prayer, from 10:30am to 11:30am this Wednesday, 19 August 2020.

Stewards will be there to help and advise, but broadly speaking, attendees will need to follow the guidelines below.

1. Enter through the main door.
2. Upon arrival, sanitise your hands using the hand disinfectant provided.
3. Wear your own face covering (this is now mandatory).
4. Go to one of the designated wooden chairs in the sanctuary for a time of personal reflection and silent prayer.
5. Leave by the fire exit when ready or as directed by a steward.

Other areas of the church will be unavailable except for strictly designated purposes. Use of toilets will be permitted, but only one person will be allowed access to the toilets at any one time, and toilets will be disinfected after each use.

Please bring a flask of water if you are likely to need refreshment.

Prayers and Readings for this week

- We remember Katie and Scott, for their wedding on Sat 29th August
- For those receiving medical treatment and in hospital
- Also continue to remember Jon F, John B, Christine H, Keith H, Chris C and others
- Pray for Rev David Gilmour, Sarah, his wife, their son, and the work in Llay
- Remember our own board members as they make important decisions about the future of Brooklands church

Monday 17 August Reading: Romans 8: 1–17
Pray for Jon Fisher and family

Tuesday 18 August Reading: Romans 8: 18–39
Pray for Jamie, Maida, Jimson and Jewell Filoteo

Wednesday 19 August Reading: Romans 9: 1–29
Pray for Sylvia Findlay

Thursday 20 August Reading: Romans 9: 30–10: 21
Pray for Karina Philips, Edwin and baby Kiyarah

Friday 21 August Reading: Romans 11: 1–24
Pray for Jean and David Hall

Saturday 22 August Reading: Catch up
Pray for Lucy Frost

Sunday 23 August Reading: Romans 11: 25–12: 21
Pray for Suzanne Gallier

Nazarenes in Lebanon

We were all shocked when we saw in the news last week, the devastation caused when a large quantity of fertiliser ignited to cause a massive explosion in Beirut. Many people were injured, and many lost their lives too. The following quotes come from the director of a Nazarene school in the city, and the District Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene for the region. Firstly, the school director.

“We are grateful (though heartbroken for those who are injured) that no staff were here, especially our accountant. His glass door exploded and the glass with big chunks were spread all over the office. Today, we gathered at the school and started cleaning up the glass. Praise God many volunteers came to help out.”

The needs in the city are enormous, and two Nazarene crisis teams have already been mobilized to help those who are most in need. They are focusing on cleaning up broken glass and debris from people’s homes, helping with urgent transportation needs, and distributing food. The church is also exploring ways to support those who cannot return to their homes and have nowhere to live. In addition, two young boys from one of the Nazarene educational programs were taken to the hospital to be treated for their injuries. Both are in stable condition.