

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

6 June 2021

Issue 63

Pandemic Times

Friends

Jesus is *"the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*" - Acts 4:11-12

Today, as we continue our preaching series looking at 'Encounters with the Holy Spirit' in the Scriptures, we find ourselves in one of my favourite stories in all the Bible. The disciples, threatened with persecution, and even death, turn to prayer, where the Spirit of God shows up in a tangible and miraculous way resulting in one of the most fruitful periods of growth seen in the early church described in Acts 4:32-37. The reason for such persecution comes following Peter's preaching, during which he makes the above statement. I'm excited to reflect on this story with you. My prayer is that during this series, we might have our own 'encounters with the Holy Spirit.'

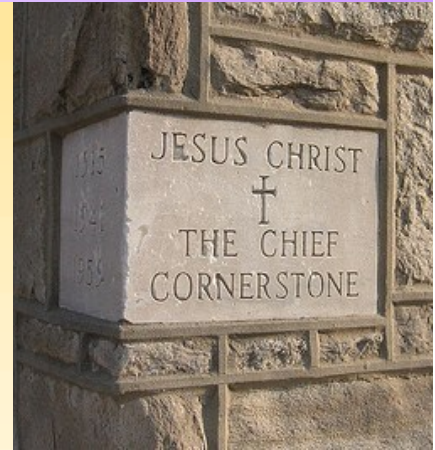
This week I attended an event run by the Message Trust during which they laid out plans for a significant Christian event/festival next summer where they hope that around 100,000 will attend in Platt Fields Park. As is the case with many of the things run by the Message it was ambitious, exciting and, above all, looking to give glory to Jesus. We are in place as a church to support the event in a few different ways so watch this space!

It does feel strange, however, to be making plans for such an event. It remains so difficult to navigate and plan our way through this pandemic. We, as a church, desire to be open, engaging with the community and meeting together as much as possible. But we also want to be wise, careful and take very seriously the threat to health and life. If you could continue to pray for us in this regard- we need much wisdom!

It has been brought to my attention that some of the details we have for individuals and families on the church directory has become outdated. This happens as people move and telephone numbers change. If you have had a change like this in the last year or so then please email me to let me know (pastormickkane@gmail.com) so that I can update the directory. We want to be able to stay in touch with you as much as possible in these days.

Peace,

Mick



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Prayer Page

We continue to remember the situation in India, and other countries that are struggling to overcome the devastating effects of the Coronavirus.

The prayer needs of the church are much as they were last week.

Church Family

- * For Alan Roberts, son-in-law of Val Batty, who has recently been diagnosed with bowel cancer.
- * A local neighbour of the church, Joan, who regularly attends our community meals, has requested prayer for her friends Gordon and Marion. Gordon has cancer.
- * For Margaret Gallagher, a regular at our community meals, who has recently been moved to a care home in Urmston and has a number of ongoing health issues.
- * For John, Jon, Isobel, Claire, Philomena, Mick Snr., Bill and Sue, and others that might need a healing touch.
- * Give thanks for people that have come into contact for the first time with Brooklands Church recently.
- * Pray for a safety, time of refreshing for our friends who will be going away on holiday over the summer months.

Daily Reading and Prayer Guide for This Week

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 7th June	John 11:28–57	Sylvia Findlay
Tuesday 8th June	John 12:1–26	Karina, Edwin and Kiyarahy
Wednesday 9th June	John 12:27–50	Jean and David Hall
Thursday 10th June	John 13:1–30	Lucy Frost
Friday 11th June	John 13:31–John 14:14	Suzanne Gallier
Saturday 12th June	Catch up	Margaret Gallagher
Sunday 13th June	John 14:15–John 15:17	Bill and Lorraine Graham



Holy Spirit Encounters (3)

Acts 4: 23-37

Pastor Mick Kane

Last week we set out something of a plan for this series that we find ourselves in- 'Encounters with the Holy Spirit.' As we journey through the Scripture following the ways in which the Holy Spirit shows up in the days of the early church we want to try our best to reflect on these questions: Who is the Holy Spirit, and what does He do? And as we took something of a bit of a detour from our Scriptural journey, we found ourselves at the baptism of Jesus for Trinity Sunday where we established a few important things: The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is God in us and God at work in the Church and in the world. Therefore we need not fear the Holy Spirit. Some do. For some the topic of the Holy Spirit is a point of contention, and it makes them nervous. We're not going to fall into that trap. We are going to lean in in faith.

We also saw how the Holy Spirit works in us in a number of different ways: The Holy Spirit illuminates Jesus in our life. This is also true in the build up to our text in Acts 4:13 where the Pharisees look at Peter and John and take note that they had been with Jesus. Can the same be said about us? Have we been with Jesus? The second point we noted last week was that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth. Again this can be seen in our text as Peter's preaching is founded on the truth of who Jesus is and what that means not only for him but for all of creation. And finally we reflected on the way the Holy Spirit sends us our empowered on the mission of God.

So here is what is happening in Acts chapter 4. Following a mighty move of the Spirit of God at Pentecost this new community, the church, continues to grow in power and influence and at the centre of that movement in a message - Jesus is Alive and he is Lord of all and this is Good News to all! Now this creates something of a problem for the Jewish leaders who thought they had dealt with this movement and witnessed Jesus death at the hands of the Romans. And now there

Sermon notes continued...

are talks or resurrection and healing and miracles in Jesus name?

And so the Pharisees have Peter and John, two of the leaders at the centre of this movement, arrested and brought in for questioning. And the conclusion of that questioning is a threat - stop preaching in Jesus name or else... that's it. The Scripture tells us that the Pharisees couldn't really decide what to do with them but to Peter and John this must have been terrifying. They saw with their own eyes what became of Jesus. That same punishment could be given to them.

And so that brings us to our text. They call a prayer meeting. Which seems like a good thing to do in that situation, doesn't it. But here is my question: What would we pray in that moment? Knowing that we had been threatened with prison, flogging, death, what would our prayer look like? I reckon mine would look something like this: 'God, please keep me safe. Please protect me. Please protect my friends and my family. Amen'.

But that's not what the disciples pray. They pray like this: 'God, you are in control. You are sovereign. You have heard their threats. Now give us great boldness to speak out even more!' This is incredible, right? This might just be my favourite prayer in all the Bible. This prayer reminds me that my prayers aren't scary enough!

And God likes this prayer. How do I know? Because he sends his Spirit and the Disciples have an Encounter with the Holy Spirit. But what I really want us to take from this today is what happens next. What happens after the Spirit of God turns up in this miraculous way. Well following this we have perhaps one of the most beautiful descriptions of the Church found in all of Scripture:

32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. 36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), 37 sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

(Acts 4:32-37)

Here is what happens when a group of people open themselves up to a move of the Spirit of God. Unity, Common Purpose, Common ownership, Needs being met, generosity, and the message of Jesus continuing to go forth. Isn't it stunning? I mean, who wouldn't want to be a part of something like this?

Come Holy Spirit!

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU

FREE CAR WASH

ran by Churches in Wythenshawe

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 10AM-4PM

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH CAR PARK



Community Car Clean

Car drivers. Get yourselves along to St Luke's Church on Brownley Road next Saturday, for a free car wash.

More importantly, pray that the event goes well, and that many residents of Wythenshawe will be blessed.

Church Attendance

We are carefully managing Sunday attendance in line with government guidelines, in an effort to keep everyone safe. Please let Mick, Mark or Lucy know if you would like to attend church on Sunday.

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

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At Brooklands, we are big enough to be part of a world-wide denomination, yet small enough to invite you to make our church your home. Please visit our website and contact us if you would like to get in touch or need more information on any of our events.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, we are holding weekly services on our YouTube channel, starting at 10:30 am each Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you to our fellowship!

