

Glen Park Gospel Church

Good Morning. As I begin to write it is a nice mostly sunny day with a few clouds like balls of cotton wool are drifting across the sky. The Government has us locked out of our building with our common consent. We cannot gather as usual. The Bible tells us to

“consider how to stir up one another to good works to love and to good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day (of the Lord’s return) approaching.”

We cannot physically gather and comply with the current requirement, but we can do the next best, and that is to gather together in spirit. Therefore I am asking you to keep our Sunday gathering at home, the household together if possible, if single, perhaps with a friend and keeping social distancing or maybe just by yourself. Begin your service at 10.30 as normal, in the understanding that others are doing the same and following the same exercises of praise and worship just as you are. You may feel alone at first, but hopefully that feeling should evaporate as you proceed knowing that others of us are ‘with you’. If there is a TV program you would like to watch at this time, record it and watch it with a cuppa, a little later.

In the following pages follows the service pattern that we would have enjoyed this Sunday had we attended the chapel. The service over all has been shortened to suit the new concept. but still includes all the things we normally do. Keep aside your tithe knowing that the Biblical pattern we follow is Paul’s instruction ‘Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.’ We do not take collections or make appeals at Glen Park, but still we like to honour Him with our substance just as the Scriptures say, and the Lord takes care of the rest.

We trust that this Lord’s day will be a blessing to you, even under these circumstances. If there is someone you know who is also locked away, just copy these notes and send them to them. There is no copyright. They are free to all.

Sunday, 29th March 2020 at 10.30 am

Invocatory prayer:

Almighty, eternal God, and our heavenly Father, by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we, a scattered family this morning, gather together in spirit to worship you. Give to us we pray a sense of belonging to one another, because each of us individually belong to you. Let our individual and corporate praise honour you for who you are, Almighty God. Amen.

Our Father, this morning I/we continue in prayer in your presence to offer our praise of thanksgiving, to remember one another and our brothers and sisters around the world in their service, our nation, friends, and our families before your throne, in Jesus name. Be pleased to meet us individually and corporately. Accept our praise, forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, hear our prayers: we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

The theme of this short service is “Remembering the Lord and His things,” Don’t forget. This is a theme that runs right through the Bible. The God who created us knows just how frail our memories tend to be. ‘Remember!’ That word occurs 61 times from Genesis to Revelation and ‘forget’ recurs 53 times. Remembering beats forgetting in God’s mind. Did you remember Him to pray to Him this morning before you ventured out? How easy it is to forget God and all His goodness, and how difficult to keep Him in our thoughts at all times. And this is only this one word. Other words, phrases and reminders are also included in His appeals to us because the world around us is full of interesting, and urgent, and unexpected, and novel things. Things that side-track us from our purpose may not be necessarily sinful in themselves; they never the less steer us away from God and His things.

Our first hymn is 728. All our hymns are in our blue hymn book. These selections are by Joan Smith who would have led the service in normal times. If you can sing do please so. If you prefer not to sing, simply read it through meditating on the words, which are ever helpful.

728

Thomas Kelly to a German melody.

Praise the Saviour ye who know Him!
Gladly let us render to Him

Who can tell how much we owe Him?
All we are and have.

Jesus is the name that charms us;
Nothing moves and nothing harms us

He for conflict fits and arms us;
While we trust in Him.

Keep us Lord, O keep us cleaving
Till the hour of our receiving

To Thy Self and still believing,
Promised joys with Thee.

Then we shall be where we would be,
Things that are not now, nor could be,

Then we shall be what we should be;
Soon shall be our own.

(Suggestion:

An hymn book a good additional stand by for your regular personal devotions.)

Reading: 2 Peter Chapter 1. Please Use your own Bible. Please pay particular attention to vv12-15

Announcements

Darrell has been in hospital earlier last week and was patched up for an older man's problem and is due to return for a more permanent treatment this week. Remember Darrell & Wendy in your prayers.

Joan has suspended, at least for the time being her Ladies Luncheon Fellowship that has done such a good work over the time and been a blessing to many, and salvation of some. We commend Joan and her friends to her Lord and your prayers.

April' Green Leaf available now. We are mailing a copy to all our folk. It looks almost normal. The service schedule will only apply if restrictions are lifted. This way, people will then know what is expected and what we need to do. This is explained in it for folk who receive it but are not on line readers. Otherwise we are happy continue our On-Line Church as long as it takes (God Willing). We are looking for ways to improve our efforts as we progress.

Offerings. We at Glen Park do not take up money collections or make appeals. (Some visiting missionaries may do so, but we provide them their expenses.) Usually we have enough and there is some to spare for others. Most of us keep Paul's instruction to put something aside on the first day of the week to accrue as the Lord enables. Normally these gifts are recorded in a day book which are countersigned at the Church. Then Doreen takes it to the Treasurer for banking. When you think fit, please give/send any offering to Doreen for recording. Members may examine these books at any time, just ask. The day book record is an audit cross check. This is our simple system.

We normally celebrate Communion on the second and fourth Sunday. Today is the fifth Sunday in March. Also Communion is not usually celebrated on Easter Day as the day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, not a commemoration of His death. It is also a time to welcome visitors.

Our second hymn is 660 As you go allow the words to minister to your heart.

In tenderness He sought me.	Weary and sick with sin,
And on His shoulders brought me	Back to His fold again;
While angels in His presence sang	Until the courts of heaven rang

Chorus:

Oh, the love that sought me,
Oh, the blood that bought me!
Oh, the grace that brought me to the fold,
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold.

He washed the bleeding sin wounds	And poured in oil and wine;
He whispered to assure me,	"I've found thee, thou art mine:"
I never heard a sweeter voice -	It made my aching heart rejoice!

So while the hours are passing, All now is perfect rest.
I'm waiting for the morning, The brightest and the best
When He will call me to His side, To be with Him, His spotless bride.

W. Spencer Walton.

Bible Reading. As we are approaching Easter let us read Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12.

Prayer. Let us bring th needs of our people to the Lord. As we do so, all of us have things in our minds and in our hearts that we may not share with others. As we proceed, you bring your burdens and blessings to Him:

Our heavenly father, we thank you for this opportunity to meet with you, and we meet in common with other members of our little family, in just the same was as we meet with you. You know that we would be physically together if we could be, and it is the stress of this occasion that has impacted on u also is impacting on all other people in this land and around the world.

We pray for those who are suffering because of the things that are happening. Some are affected by the virus itself and are suffering bodily. We pray for them.

Many are caught short of funds, some because they have imprudently overspent and are in financial stress. Some because health and family needs have drained their resources. Some because they have lost their employment and their income. Some because they have taken a punt to secure somewhere to live and are now unable to meet their commitments. We pray for them. Whatever the cause, we pray for those who are - or will be in financial difficulty at this time. We pray for those who serve, for the hospitals, institutions and charities that minister to people in need

We bring to you too those who are serving you here in this land, or overseas. There are those who have been caught out by withdrawn transport provision. For hastily cancelled plans and obligations, for those with stressed people flocking around them. Dear Lord remember your servants and give them wisdom to deal with the pressures and extra pressures of their task. Please provide for them and their ministries at this time. May they see fruit for their labours, spiritual fruit.

We pray for our people. There are many needs. We remember Darrell, mid way between his treatments, and for Wendy. She doesn't need this extra stress as she has enough to deal with in her own needs. We pray for Joan, advanced in years and coping well with the infirmities of ageing. We remember our members and associates in care, Georgina, Rae, June, and Betty with Doug & Sue. We pray for Laurie and Valmai and David, for Coralie, and Arthur and Jeanette. We pray for Philip and Eirene, Doreen, Chris.

Dear Lord we ask that at this time our witness may not fall short. Please lead us by your Spirit to people with need that we are able to help, maybe with substance or maybe with just a word. We pray for those around us, our neighbours and friends. Give us compassion. Enable us to honour your name. In all these things and more we seek your undertaking,

In Jesus name, Amen

A short address.

Remember - and don't forget !

Some years ago I had the pleasure of being in a University course alongside my eldest daughter Carolyn. One thing that impressed me about her was the ease with she remembered all the lectures, notes and assignments. She could read her notes once or twice and reproduce them in essence. I always was a plodder. I reduced all my notes to memory keys, and then had trouble remembering the keys to find the right key to open the question. It was just a grind. I concluded: Some people have it, and some don't. Where did Carolyn get it? Must have been her Mother. Where else?

How can anyone forget this stuff academically approved? We forget it because it is of minor value and importance. To me as a man of God, it seemed very humanistic, of this world and psychologically based. That seems to say that I thought that there was no value in what I was being taught. That is not so. I learned how the world, especially the business world, works. I needed to know that. And, I can stand beside business leaders and look them in the eye. But all those acronyms!

What do we remember without really trying? We remember the vital, earth shattering things. I remember lying out in a grassy field with an icy wind gusting over me, feeling too ill to make the mile home from school. When eventually I did get home, was put straight to bed and doctor was called. He pumped me full of the new wonder drug, penicillin, which had saved thousands of allied lives on the battlefields of World War II. This was 1946 or 1947. He came back over a couple of days for repeat doses. I remember that because it was important and life or death to me.

Moses called on his people as they faced the biggest battle of their lives, to not forget God and what He had done for their nation in their recent past. How can we forget God and what He has done for us? Yet we can, or at least tend to. There seem to be two kinds of 'forgetteries'. There are the things that we forget when the going is good. And there are the things we forget when the going is hard. These are very subtle. When a nation is in crisis, as in the days of war, the Churches begin to fill. People feel a need to seek the help of Almighty God. And some do find Him.

We sing such standard hymns as 'O God our help in ages Past' People are mostly either fearful or scared. When the danger is past, 'Our hope for years to come' is often forgotten.

What then were the things that concerned Moses about the people he was soon to leave? The topic was so important to Moses that he wrote a book on topic for his people: He told them to remember all the things that they and their fathers had suffered. Suffering was over. Victory and acquisition was at hand. They were to remember the power and mercies of their God as He led them to victory. Trust Him and when things get too much, He will do the fighting for you.

That book is still in the Jewish scrolls and is also in your Bible. It is called Deuteronomy. Look up these chapters and verses in your Bible. The no summary in your notes are very brief. There are more of them there unexplored.

5:15, 15:15, 16:12, 24:18, 24:22 repeats "You shall remember that you were a

slave in the land of Egypt”, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

7:18 Remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt,

8:2 Remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness . . .

8:18, 9:7 Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. Remember the negatives and defeats as well as the victories for life will always have its challenges and heartaches.

16:3 You came out of the land of Egypt in haste—that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.

24:9 Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam . . .

25:17 Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt.

32:7 Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask your father, and he will show you, your elders, and they will tell you.

Remember, Remember, Remember, calls Moses. How could anyone forget? But forget they did. Hosea’s sad, sad charge at a later time was this,

“Israel has forgotten his maker.” 8:4.

John Bunyan picks up this theme in his allegory of *Forgetful Green*. It is brief mention but it tells a story and is worthy to bring up and examining the setting.

Bunyan is well known for his story of *Pilgrims Progress*, an extended allegory that he wrote whilst imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. Gospel preaching outside the established church was a crime at that time. Bunyan was guilty and spent years at a time in jail for his crime, preaching.

Pilgrim’s Progress is the story of a pilgrim who being convicted in his heart of his sinfulness left his home in the City of Destruction and journeyed to the Celestial City travelling alone at times, but often in the company of friends. In the process many adventures befell him, each one telling a part of the Christian’s life in and for his lord. Bunyan concentrates on the hardships and dangers, spiritual and material that beset his hero. There were many.

He must have rethought his work. After review is a foible of many preachers for after delivering a fine sermon we are stricken with the realisation that we could have done better. I should have said this, or put it that way. Maybe, I ought not have offered that at all, and given them something else. This is a common heartache of the preacher.

Finding himself in prison again with such thoughts on his heart he wrote a sequel that adds information and embellishes his story. He chose Christian’s wife, Christiana, as his hero, along her children to retrace with a softer touch Christians journey, In very many ways it is a commentary as well as a correction of, and a supplement to, the first narrative. He gave them Great Heart as guide and mentor. A man filled with wisdom, the Holy Spirit and much practical help.

Christiana the wife of Christian was persuaded at last to be a pilgrim after the passing of her husband. Whilst he lived she resisted all entreaties but then she surrendered her will to the Saviour. Taking her children with her she travelled the same path as her husband, and in the presence of their guide Greatheart came in time to many of the places that he had visited, and in that process, the place where he battled with, and defeated Apollyon.

When one of the lads asked Great Heart where it was, he replied that it was just beyond Forgetful Green which he said was the most dangerous place in those parts. So pleasant and refreshing was the Green that pilgrims tended to relax their vigilance and hardness of the way and then forget what favours they have received and how unworthy they are to receive them. However the green is for more than that.

There are things that needs be forgotten and things that must be remembered at all costs.

The valley of humiliation also has two aspects. We are told that was a wide place, but so steep that it was hard to go down into it, but easy to climb back out of. Unlike all of our habits. Most unusual in that respect. The valley roughly corresponds to humility true and false.

Do you remember Charles Dickens and Uriah Heep a character in his book David Copperfield. Uriah became a byword for a falsely humble hypocrite. True humility comes of hard won personal confession of need and the ready grace of forgiveness. There is a godly demarcation.

Micah tells us of true humility. Micah 7:16 & 17:

The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf; they shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the LORD our God, and they shall be in fear of you.

The valley of humiliation is the site of Forgetful Green: How blessed it is.

True humility occasions God's forgetfulness. Micah 7:18-20:

"Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as you have sworn to our fathers from the days of old."

But remember. Have you forgotten that this is also where Christian in a life or death struggle first needed to defeat Apollyon.* They were standing in the benefit of his victory.

* In reality it is Christ and the cross that defeats Apollyon. The Christian participates in that victory by faith and the preaching of the word and as overwhelming victory is secured in a region, sinfulness in that region retreats. When the prince of Peace has authority, peace reigns. In Australia today we are seeing a reversal of these conditions. Sin is rampant. We could go on, for the topic is not exhausted.

Our final Hymn is 717. The Solid Rock.

Edward Mote 1797 - 1874.

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness.
No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus name.
- 2 When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest upon His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.
- 3 When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh. May I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before His throne.

Chorus:

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

And now, may the blessings of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and abide with you, now and evermore.

Amen.

ooOoo

"What is the word that means forgotten?" "Things to Say When You have Forgotten."

"Now, I've lost my train of thought."

"It just slipped my mind."

"It's on the tip of my tongue!"

"It doesn't ring a bell."

"It went in one ear and out the other."

"Can you refresh my memory?"

"I just had a senior moment."

"What was your name again?"

"What was I saying? Oh yes!

Can you remember all seven things on this list. They might come in handy one day!