

Glen Park Gospel Church

Sunday Service, May3rd, 2020

Please join us in bringing our praise and worship to God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, One God.

Welcome:

Good morning everyone, welcome to our Sunday Service. Hopefully we soon will not be doing things this way and we will be able to resume a more familiar pattern.

This is the day which the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
God is Spirit and they who worship Him
must worship Him in spirit and in truth

Invocation:

Yes, Lord, we do bring you our praise. Our hearts rise to meet you. In the name of Jesus your Son. All that we do and have is due to Him and the redemptive victory that He has won through His death upon the Cross. We confess our unworthiness. Nothing that we have or do or think is worthy of you and we cower beneath the guilt of our sin except that Your Son Jesus has even before we were born taken our case into hand. And we gladly avail ourselves of that forgiveness. We offer you our thanks in that precious Name of Jesus, Amen

A Couple of Brief Announcements:

Today's order of service was compiled by Helen Waterworth. The message on a portion of God's word is a little different. It looks at an example of God's working of miracles through nature in answer to His servant's prayers and how God's timing was perfect. I have often wondered if all miracles result from the working of the natural law, except that we do not know that natural law which has produced them, so they seem miraculous to us. Maybe I will get an answer one day! However, We are encouraged to trust Him in our prayers and our daily round and leave the miracles to Him to work out.

Virus testing for Coralie and Eirene is negative. So far, so good. Thankyou Lord.

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Hymn B39 Stand up and bless the Lord.

1 Stand up, and bless the Lord,
ye people of His choice;
stand up, and bless the Lord your God
with heart, and soul, and voice.

2 God is our strength and song,
and His salvation ours;
then be His love in Christ proclaimed
with all our ransomed pow'rs.

3 Stand up and bless the Lord,
the Lord your God adore;
stand up, and bless His glorious Name
henceforth for evermore.

James Montgomery 1771 - 1854

Readings Using your own Bibles:

Old Testament: Ezekiel 34: 1-16 & 25 - 31

New Testament : John 21: 1 - 22

The prayers of the Church - the List:

Our Heavenly Father we approach you in Jesus name, bringing to you the needs, and our praise and joys this day in this our prayer. Lord we bring to you our people this day and we pray for the potential ministry of this temporary medium as a written service may have. Dear Lord be pleased to bless it. It is very simple, but then there are some benefits in that it can be printed and shared around. It can be picked and read later on. Dear Lord please use it and in us to your glory we pray. Please keep us united and wholly committed over this down time.

We pray for our leaders , those in the church that they may be filled with your Spirit to lead the work you have called them to do. That they may watch over us in love and wisdom. We pray for our National , State and Local leaders that they may be give selfless leadership, even those that do not have their trust firmly in you. We pray for such today that the Spirit of God will melt hearts and mould minds to bring them into conformity with the purposes of God. We thank you for a PM who openly trusts and serves you, and that some of his cabinet are likeminded.

We pray for our own people. There are those who have real needs. Darrell and Wendy still need your healing, also Joan, Coralie and Eirene. We pray for Helen, Mary and the decisions that they are making about their house move; Arthur and Jeanette, Laurie, Valmai and David, for Ann and her family, for Chris, Doreen, and Philip. Then there are our folk in care ; Georgina, June, Muriel Smith and Rae. Betty Eaton, who is in the care of daughter Sue and Doug and family. We also remember today Laura, Olga healing and recovery for Laurina. For their respective families in New Brunswick, Canada.

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your family in Australia and abroad. May their income not diminish, that opportunities will not fail, that their strength and ability will be renewed. We pray for our outreach responsibilities. Help us find a niche for ministry to young mums and their children as school restarts: a new avenue for ministry to young families.

We pray too for those who are shut in by the current medical scare that they will take heed for their spiritual welfare, as well as their physical limitations. We pray for those hospitalised and those bereaved by the virus that they will be comforted and their families drawn to you.

Dear Lord, we bring to you the desires of our hearts and the work of our hands. In the final analysis our work is your work and your ultimate responsibility for we trust you to lead and empower as the opportunities arise. We trust in you.

in Jesus name, Amen.

B85 The King of Love my Shepherd Is

The king of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never:
Good shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.

Henry W Baker 1865

Prayer before the message:

Loving Father, we pray that You would ready our minds to learn what You would have us to learn from the message that has been prepared for us this morning. Bring to our remembrance other passages of Your Word which may help to show further light into our minds we pray in Jesus Name
And now, Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer. From Psalm19:14 .

Address:

Elijah and the Mediterranean Ocean Dipole

First please read 1 Kings 17:1.

The narrative begins abruptly. Suddenly Elijah was there! We know nothing about his origins or God's commissioning as a prophet. But suddenly, here he is, standing before King Ahab of Samaria. James says 5:17 that, "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth." We have no record of that prayer, but we do have a record of him, in the hearing of king Ahab, praying for drought breaking rain.

And now please read 1 Kings 18:1 & 2 and 20 - 46.

You probably have not ever thought about it, but the Mediterranean Ocean is subject to the same kind of pattern of alternate warming then cooling periods in its eastern as against its western waters for thousands of years. From what we read in Scripture Elijah understood the forces the climate in the Levant. Israel was, just like Australia, and probably others, with scorching drying desert winds then cool, moist off sea winds. Look up Hosea 13:15, Isaiah 14:7, Ezekiel 19:12. Let us then look at our experience to help us understand Elijah's.

Australia, has as in other parts of the world, experienced in the last year crippling droughts, catastrophic fires especially on our Eastern Coasts when many homes were lost, farmland incinerated, animals and people dying due to the flames.

Under these conditions, Godly Church leaders called their people to prayer. Many reports were received of people and property miraculously saved. (See for example The Miracle of Wingello - January Green Leaf.) Then as fires intensified in the East and much prayer turned to calling on God for rain, rain began to fall. Sceptics said, "Not enough." And it wasn't enough, for those fires were deep seated. Forrest fires do not only burn the dried leaf tips, they can burn right into the heart of the trees and some of them deep underground where they can smoulder for weeks only to break out again when the conditions are right, But the rain continued to fall right where it was needed. Front after front came. And as I write we are experiencing day after day of rain, with warnings of floods Those smouldering logs have been quenched.

Then sceptics were at it again, "It wasn't God that sent the rain, it was the Indian Ocean Dipole," they said. Well as a man of God, as a participant in God answering prayer, I believe it was the Indian Ocean Dipole, and the dipole action is just a small part of God's design. You see, God is not subject to the natural world, but very often uses it in answering believing prayer, He uses the mechanisms that He has built into the universe when He created it, thousands of years ago. He knew beforehand, the calls that would be made upon His creation and took it all into account. Specifically, the man who created this world in its detail, and designed its structures accordingly was Jesus Christ. And it is He who keeps it all going. Of Him, in the Bible we read as a summary statement,

"By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together"¹ Col 1:16 ESV.
(NOTE: Thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities are relate to the Gnostic heresy which Paul addresses.)

Jesus Christ who is God, is the ultimate manager of the worlds systems and resources, not some International Panel on Climate Change. Jesus Christ is God and He is in ultimate, absolute control.

First a brief look at Elijah before Ahab in Kings 17:1.

:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

Most commentators I have read, and preachers I have heard, assume that Elijah was passing on a word he had received from God. That is a logical assumption and it may be the case, however that is not recorded in this verse. Notice the last four words. "Except by my word." As far as Ahab was concerned and Elijah indicated, Elijah was the authority for the drought in Samaria, and all that region at that time.

The Lord said to Elijah in the third year, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth." So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria. 1 Kings 18:1&2. We might reasonably assume that Elijah had a working knowledge of the weather patterns and functions of the area and could predict and work with the Lord and what those patterns were indicating. He was a man of faith, a man of prayer and a prophet of God to his people. Ahab's greeting was, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" (18:17)

Let's see what was happening in the Mediterranean Ocean while Elijah was standing on Mount Carmel. To do this we must compare what happens in the Indian Ocean that burns our trees and then quenches all our fires.

The Indian Ocean Dipole works in the oceans off north west coast of Australia in the same way as in the Mediterranean, and the more famous El Niño - La Niña of the Pacific. They alternately parch then drench adjacent coastlands and even to the central deserts, by those familiar 'droughts and flooding rains.'

Warm moisture laden air blowing inland striking the coastal hills is lifted to higher, cooler atmosphere and there is rain. In other years as the ocean cools down. Less moist air

means less rain. We descend into drought. We and they are subject to this 'droughts and flooding rains syndrome.' Australia's pattern.

This year, just when we needed it most, a warm humid airflow came off the northern Indian Ocean waters, contributing to the wet, cool autumn we are now experiencing. Troughs and fronts drive this rain south and southeast wards. Places that miss out on La Niña's gifts can pick up rain from the Indian Ocean's air flows. The Darling is running again. The Menindee lakes are beginning to fill. Water is reaching the Coorong and Lake Eyre is waiting for the waters trickling down.

Had you heard of the Mediterranean Dipole?

This topic can be traced out on the internet. Look up, www.bom.gov.au/climate to start your search, then go on using the words and Mediterranean as a key. Have you thought of it as you read the records given to us in the Bible? Now is the time to examine this phenomenon related to Old Testament history.

The Mediterranean Sea is a largish East-West body of water with a Latitude of 35.5°, that is about 3350km from the equator, but the huge Sahara Desert intervenes. The Mediterranean will have patterns and influences of its own. The Biblical history records droughts and floods. It was there in Elijah's day. And Elijah could read the signs. Signs? What signs? We don't know all of what was happening. But here are a few.

First, the fire falling from heaven. Lightening is very often a significant part of a storm front preceding this heavy rain. After Elijah had thoroughly drenched the sacrificial offering and filled the trench around the offering with water, While they watched "the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. It was a concentrated strike. 1 Kings 18:38.

I experienced something like that once when two of us were working in carpentry. A lightening strike hit a tree just yards away. It split the tree open. The noise, the smell, and the power to break open a tree, stripping huge splinters up to six feet long from it was magnificent. Not everyone enjoyed it! Such lightening accompanies the el Nino storms in profusion. It is fire from heaven that sets our forests ablaze in the days and weeks that the current tide turns. Elijah's description is consistent with el Nino.

Second, The fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water whilst the people stood near by. The offerings on the altars to Baal were untouched, rejected. The Lord did not accept them.

Third, the cloud rising from the sea. Elijah sent his servant again and again to look for the rain coming from the sea. "At the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." Elijah knew that his prayer had been answered. The Lord was delivering Samaria and King Ahab from the drought. Elijah could read this sign as a natural event that vindicated his prophecy and the deliverance God's people.

The Secret of Elijah's Power

The Secret of Elijah's Power was his relationship of faith in Jehovah, His Lord.

Elijah told his servant to say to Ahab, "Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you." The sky was cloudless as Elijah spoke, but Elijah was attuned to Almighty God.

James 5:17&18 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Here are some lessons learned from Elijah's prayer: Turn in your Bible to 1 Kings 17.

As Elijah spoke, the sky was cloudless and the earth was cracked and bare, after 3½ years of withering drought. Elijah could hear what Ahab could not, because he was tuned in to a different program. Let's see if we can learn any of Elijah's secrets in the life of faith. He had prayed in public for fire but now he prays in secret for rain.

Elijah's Prayer:

(Study each point with the Scripture references following this section.)

1. *In Faith*, believing the promise of God and thus within the will of God. God was working out His purposes and Elijah knew what and how God was working. He knew exactly when to expect the rain to come. Had Elijah taken it on himself to act before that time, he would have been acting outside the known will of God.

2. *In Secret* Jesus not only encouraged the Disciples to seek privacy and solitude in prayer, but also gave them His own example, which has come down to us. When you are alone with God you can pour out your heart to Him and share with Him all things that if with others may hinder your prayer and your relationship with God. Pray also with others. Both forms of prayer have their place in the Christian life.

3. *In Detail* He was very specific. He concentrated on the one thing that burned into his heart. "Lord send the rain". Like King Hezekiah with Sennacherib's letter. Here then is just one of the secrets of believing prayer. Concentration on a burning issue in praying is not vain repetition.

4. *In Reverence* This is seen from his action, his manner and mode in prayer. We see him, not teasing the priests on Carmel, but humbly bowed before God, his face between his knees. Elijah is conscious that his Lord is Jehovah, the Eternal God, the Majesty on High. There is a pattern here found throughout Scripture.

5. *In Earnest* While Ahab feasted, Elijah fasted. There are times when prayer is more important than food or rest. The setting of earnest fervent prayer is a real and immediate need which only God can answer. It is not an act. It is not panic. It is the sincere belief in a God who has the power and will to meet the needs of His children.

6. *In Expectation*. He was looking for the evidence that his prayer had been answered. No sooner had he begun his request but that he sent his servant to look for the answer. Paul instructed his Colossians hearers to, "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." and by watch he meant to be vigilant, be aware of what is going on around. Psalm 130 is written for those who have their hope in the Lord.

7. *In Persistence* He didn't let up. He sent his servant seven times to look for the answer to his prayer, an answer previously declared by God. Why did God delay his answer? Surely Elijah did not need such a lesson. We learn from one another. George Muller who through prayer and faith alone supported hundreds of orphan children, foreign missions and Scripture distribution prayed for 52 years for the salvation of two of his friends. One found the Saviour only after Muller's death.

In Conclusion In studying Elijah's prayer as a model for praying in faith, let us avoid reducing his actions to a system, a method, or a pattern to be followed. To do so would be to turn a relationship into a religion. All his actions stemmed from his interaction with the living God in his struggle against the forces of evil in his day. Every Christian needs to establish his own relationship with his Lord, a new, unique, one to one interaction in real time. We each must learn to trust God through Jesus Christ by the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. Anything else is inadequate. Anything less is insufficient. Anything more is impossible.

Bible References for Elijah's Prayer: 1. 1 John 5.14-15 and Romans 8.26-28. See also 1 John 5.14-15 and Romans 8.26-28 2. Matthew 6.6. See also Luke 5.16 and Luke 6.12. 3. 2 Kings 19:14-20, Look up Luke 11.11-13 and see what Jesus taught on this. 4. 2 Kings 19:14-20, Look up Luke 11.11-13 and see what Jesus taught on this. 5. See also Matthew 26.40-41 and Hebrews 5.7. 6. Psalm 130. 7. Look up 1Corinthians 10:11, also Philippians 3:17, 2 Peter 2:6.

Other Reference: 1. Colossians 1:16&17. Hosea 13:15.

Hymn B415. Give Me a Sight O Saviour

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| <p>1. Give me a sight, O Saviour,
of Thy wondrous love to me,
of the love that brought Thee down to earth,
to die on Calvary.</p> | <p>2. Oh, wonder of all wonders,
that through Thy death for me,
my open sins, my secret sins,
can all forgiven be.</p> |
| <p><i>Refrain</i></p> | |
| <p>Oh, make me understand it.
Help me to take it in,
what it meant to Thee, the Holy One,
to bear away my sin.</p> | <p>3. Then melt my heart, O Saviour,
Bend me, yea, break me down,
until I own Thee Conqueror,
and Lord and Sovereign crown</p> |

Benediction:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.