

[Turn on the bible talk video for the reading and bible talk]

BIBLE READING

Colossians 1:1-14

BIBLE TALK

from Richard Hopkins

I am forgiven

The markers of genuine Christian faith

- trust in Jesus
- love for other Christians
- the hope of heaven

Paul is praying that:

- they'll know how God wants them to live
- they'll be strengthened by God

God has:

- qualified us
- delivered us

→ **I am forgiven**

3 questions we ask:

- "if I'm really forgiven, does that mean I can live however I want?"
- "if I'm really forgiven, why do I still sin?"
- "if I'm really forgiven, why do I still feel guilty?"

In our closing song we marvel that we really do stand forgiven at the cross.

SONG

Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.

*This the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath -
we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh to see the pain written on Your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought, every evil deed
crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
quakes as its maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life;
'finished!' the victory cry.

Oh to see my name
written in the wounds,
for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
won through Your selfless love.

*This the power of the cross:
Son of God - slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.*

CLOSING PRAYER

Watch the video as Alex closes the service in prayer.

That concludes our service. We'll be meeting up as a church on Zoom from 12.00-12.30pm - do come along! It'll be open from 11.50am.

The code is: 896 1348 7315

The password is: 559599

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Welcome to today's virtual service!

For each person in your home, you'll need a copy of this service sheet, a bible, print outs of the children's sheets (if needed) and your computer or tablet connected to Emmanuel's website.

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Watch the video of Alex's welcome and intro.

The passage of the bible we're looking at this morning says that God has delivered Christians from darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his Son. We celebrate this in our opening song.

SONG

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of the risen Christ
May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy,
With endless life

*May the peoples praise You, let the nations be glad.
All Your blessing comes that we may praise,
May praise the Name of Jesus*

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known
May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word

This our holy privilege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation, tribe and tongue,
Your church proclaims
Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb Who was slain

Holy, holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name

BITESIZE

Church members, Alex and Becci Bitsios-Esposito, update us on what's been happening with them during lockdown.

Psalm 32

Blessed is the one

whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one

whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent,

my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night

your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, 'I will confess

my transgressions to the LORD.'

And you forgave

the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you

while you may be found;

surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.

You are my hiding-place;

you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you
should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule,

which have no understanding

but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked,

but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.

Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;

sing, all you who are upright in heart!

In a few moments, we're going to pray to God. We can come before him with complete confidence because of what Jesus achieved by dying on the cross, which we focus on in our next song.

SONG

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong, a perfect plea:
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on his hands,
my name is written on his heart;

I know that while in heaven he stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart,
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair
and tells me of the guilt within,

upward I look and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the Just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.

Behold him there, the risen Lamb;
my perfect, spotless righteousness,

the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with his blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

PRAYERS

Say aloud the prayers that are printed below.

Father God, we thank you that you have called us out of darkness, into the kingdom of your son. Thank you that by believing in Jesus, we can know that we have full and complete forgiveness of all of our sin. Thank you that we do not have to live in guilt or fear, but can look forward confidently to the day when Jesus comes. **Amen.**

Father, we confess that this week we've have sinned in what we have thought, what we have said, and what we have done. We are sorry for our sin and we ask once more for your forgiveness. Thank you that because Jesus has died for us we can confess our sins, knowing that you are faithful and just and will forgive

us. Thank you for the confident assurance we have that you always forgive us because of Jesus. **Amen.**

Please will you help us to show to others the same grace that you have shown to us. Please help us to forgive others as you have forgiven us. You know the bitterness in our hearts towards others who have hurt us in the past, or whom we are struggling with at the moment. We turn from this. Please help us to forgive.

Amen.

We thank you Father for the many people who are taking more interest in you at this time of crisis in our world. Please will you use this time of lockdown to bring more people to hear of your forgiveness, and to believe in Jesus so that they too can say 'I am forgiven'. Please will you use us to speak to others of your forgiveness. **Amen.**

We pray for our Mission partner Noblesse, as he works among the Laarim people in South Sudan. Please equip him with everything he needs as he takes the good news of forgiveness of sins to them. Please may many amongst the Laarim believe and be saved. Please will you use Noblesse and the rest of the team to raise up and train church leaders and evangelists amongst the Laarim. We ask all of these things in Jesus name. **Amen.**

Our next song reminds us that, because of God's great mercy to us, we're forgiven and don't get what we deserve.

SONG

Oh the mercy of God the glory of grace,
that you chose to redeem us, to forgive and restore,
and you call us your children, chosen in him
to be holy and blameless to the glory of God.

*To the praise of his glorious grace,
to the praise of his glory and power;
to him be all glory, honour and praise
for ever and ever and ever, Amen.*

Oh the richness of grace, the depths of his love,
in him is redemption, the forgiveness of sin.
You called us as righteous, predestined in him
for the praise of his glory, included in Christ.

Oh the glory of God expressed in his Son,
his image and likeness revealed to us all;
the plea of the ages completed in Christ
that we be presented perfected in him.