

Welcome to worship with Victoria Park Baptist Church 17.1.21

This time of worship has been prepared by Liz.

Thanks to Rev Dr Alan Beavis from Loughton Baptist Church for his talk, and to Jane Wright for leading our prayers for the world.

Thanks as always to Pete and Bolaji for making this presentation available online and for their technical support

The title of Alan's talk is 'The Living Covenant' and we'll be looking at 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

'Christ is like a single body that has many parts'

This poem, by Dave Hopgood, is based on the passage and is called 'Body Parts'

Some bits are visible, while some are plain unseen, some heroic, others less, if you know what I mean. Whether liver, heels, legs or heart, we all play a vital part. Fingerprints or backs of hand, all necessary in God's great plan.

All valued, from the smile to the spleen.

All part of God's body, God's building, God's team.

Some give, some help, some teach, some listen, some mend, some fix, some bake, some christen.

Some encourage, some lift up, some trust, some pray, some are loud, some quiet, some sing, some say.

We need the strong and the fast, the gentle and small, each one called to be part of us all. All valued, all gifted, whether seen or unseen. All part of God's body, God's building, God's team.

Let's pray

GOD of Creation we worship You.

We praise You together for the gift of life,
for the joy of knowing You as our Father
and for Your gift of peace through Jesus Christ

God of Salvation

Thank You for Your amazing love for us, for
Your mercy, Your grace and Your gift of hope.

Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Thank You that You welcome us into Your
presence now. With joy we come!

Amen

So let's join together and come with thankful hearts to praise
the one true God

https://resoundworship.org/song/come_you_thankful_people

Sam Hargreaves

We become part of the body of Christ when we give our lives to
Him and travel together as a Church to help and encourage one
another along the way.

Jesus You have called us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzP6Mx3CiMM>

This is a song which we haven't sung for a while - Living under the shadow of His wing

It talks about God's protection for His people, celebrates His love for us, our love for one another in Christ, and our unity in the Spirit.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_ZqJVcL1yw

And may we work together in God's kingdom. He is our Father, Lord and Saviour of us all.

Let's pray using this song by Sam Hargreaves

God our Father

https://resoundworship.org/song/god_our_father_let_your_kingdom_come

Prayers for the World - Praying for school communities worldwide during the pandemic

Lord Jesus,

We lift up to you, this morning, all the school communities throughout the world, at this time of the global pandemic: the pupils, the school staff and all the families.

The closing and reopening of schools, the covid safety precautions that need to be in place, the disparity between rich and poor households, rich and poor countries, the sickness of school staff, the lack of computers, the fear and anxiety that everyone is experiencing, the complexity of it all, we give to you.

We give thanks for the passion and energy of school staff as they prepare and deliver for online learning. We ask that you continue to motivate and help them to make these lessons as rich and as interesting as possible. We give thanks for schools that are open to receive the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

We pray for the children, that they too will maintain their focus and concentration, in the quietest and the noisiest of homes.

We pray for parents who are supporting their children and ask that you give them patience and skill as they do this as well as run the home and have work commitments themselves.

We think of all those children who are displaced and living in war zones. We ask that some form of education will be available for them and that they will be considered and provided for in these very difficult circumstances.

We think of those children who would have had significant exams and how they are affected by these exams now having been cancelled. Please give them the ability to keep working hard and please give them hope for their futures when their plans now look very different.

When this pandemic is over, and life begins to return to some kind of normality, we pray for a smooth transition back to school and that the curriculum will give space and value to talking about this time and what it has meant to the children as each one will have had a unique experience. Many will have lost cherished family members and friends. We ask that this time may give educationalists and politicians, all over the world, the opportunity to reflect upon the curriculum as it is and whether it needs reforming to best meet the needs of the children in a post pandemic world.

Lord Jesus, please bless the children of the world with courage, resilience, motivation, peace and hope for the future.

Amen

Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

<https://youtu.be/E16IvtiZctk>

Talk by Alan Beavis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FofN2SiH3q4>

Take a moment to be still and listen to God.

Is there anything that He is saying specifically to you through His word today?

What does it mean to you to be part of the body of Christ and in covenant with others in the Church?

Is there anything which He wants you to share with the Church?

The following is a story by Bob Hartman from his book 'Telling the Bible'.

'Let's hear it for the Church!'

<https://youtu.be/6ocJJbk74SA>

This last hymn was first published in 1875, and the lyrics are by Fanny Crosby. This version is by Lou Fellingham.

To God be the glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zW8-M9KCfnQ>

Let us remember to pray for one another, care for one another and encourage one another in the week ahead.

And may God bless each one of us.

As Paul wrote - 'Receive and experience the amazing grace of Jesus Christ deep within yourselves!' AMEN

.....

There is a Church Members Meeting on Zoom starting at 12pm today.

Please join with the Church for our week of prayer which begins tomorrow, 18/1/21. We will be meeting on Zoom from 7pm to 8pm every evening this week. Becky will send details for the meeting.

The link to each prayer session will also be shared on VPBCCareNShare WhatsApp group, so that those who can't join on Zoom can also pray with us.