

Order of Service 20th September 2020

Leader: Mark Reid

Speaker: Alex Jacobs (CMJ)

Hello and welcome to our online Sunday Service for 20th September 2020, to both those who are here in the church building and all of you out on Zoom.

We have a special guest speaker today this morning, the Rev Alex Jacob from the Church's Ministry Amongst Jewish People otherwise known as CMJ who will bring God's word to us later. If you want to ask him anything, you can catch him outside after the service.

Can I remind those of you who are here that we don't have any refreshments after the service and to leave the building immediately at the end of the service through the marked exits. When you are outside, please observe social distancing and the rule of six as you chat with others. If you are at home, you don't have to worry about any of that but Steve is going to leave Zoom on for a few minutes for a chinwag.

Don't forget to read the Weekly Sheet. Those at home can download it from the service page on the website.

In two week's time, on the 4th October, it's going to be our annual Harvest Service when we are going to have a Tearfund speaker. As part of that, we are going to have our customary display up the front here. We need you to donate items for it but please concentrate on tins and packets rather than fresh stuff as the people we give them to need items that don't perish. There will be an opportunity to drop stuff off at the church on the morning of Saturday October 3rd, so that Carol can arrange the display.

Finally, all our offerings at church are now retiring offerings. There are baskets at the exit for our regular offering, and also for CMJ, which Alex is going to take away with him. They are both clearly marked.

As we come to worship, let's stand and declare who we are in Christ. I'll say the white words and we all say the yellow italics.

By grace we have been saved through faith.

And this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God.

For we are God's handiwork, redeemed in Christ Jesus for good works,
works God has prepared for us, that we should walk in them.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised. Amen.

Father, as we come *stand* before you, we recognise that it is not because we have a right as human beings to come, but that it's in the name of Jesus, His finished work on the cross and through our faith and trust in Him. We are a redeemed people, because of your love, mercy

and grace. As we hear of the work that CMJ does amongst Jewish People, may you challenge and encourage us, and help equip us in our ministry and mission by the power of your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus name we ask this,

Amen

Please be seated

Song: O for a thousand tongues to sing 4.52

Let's pray

We thank You Father, that we come before you as a people who in Christ do not fear condemnation. Once we were not a people, now we are the people of God. Thank you that we have the privilege and the responsibility to intercede for others.

As we consider the coronavirus pandemic and its continued march, we ask that it may be contained and that effective treatments and vaccines will emerge soon. We pray that problems with the test and trace system will be ironed out quickly. We continue to pray for those who have lost their jobs and who are struggling financially during the pandemic. Lord be with them. Have mercy, Lord we pray.

In Jesus name, *Amen*.

This coming week it would have been the EBA Assembly on Saturday. Instead the EBA is having a Week of Prayer and details are with your Weekly Sheet here in church or on the website if you are online. You can also listen to a live morning prayer session each day on Zoom if you'd like to – details are in the sheet. Do reflect daily on those things God wants to do in your life and in the life of the church.

Father, we thank you that you have placed us as part of an association of Churches. We pray for the EBA this morning and for our Regional Ministers, Beth, Nick and Graeme, that you will continue to encourage them and fill them with Your Spirit. Please continue to lead your churches here in the East to be effective missionary churches in these times, that as men and women consider the meaning of life and death, that they may see you active in the lives of Your church. We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

Let's take a short time, for us each to remember in prayer situations and individuals known to us, as we listen to this short piece of music.

Short piece of music.

Father, we lift these prayers before You, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Let's close this part of the service *by standing and* saying the Lord's prayer together.

*Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever, Amen.*

Song: Wonderful, so wonderful (Beautiful One) 3.50

Can I ask you a question? Who is the greatest Jewish person who ever lived? To us Christians, it's a no-brainer. It's Jesus of course. In fact He's not only the greatest Jewish person who ever lived, He's simply the greatest person, full stop. Ask the same question of anyone Jewish, who's not Messianic and the answer will be someone else, and definitely not Jesus. To them He's infamous rather than great.

In Romans chapter 10, the apostle Paul, of the tribe a Benjamin, a former Pharisee who accepted Jesus as Messiah, Saviour and Lord, said this of his fellow race. Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. *Romans 10:1*

It's no surprise that in these days, Jewish people who have also found this same Jesus, also have the same desire for their fellows. Indeed, many Gentiles have that same burden for the people of Israel too. In a few moments, Alex is going to tell us more about why we should have that same prayer for the Israelites, that they may be saved. He's the CEO of CMJ and he's given me this video to show, which tells us a little of the history of the mission and you also have a leaflet about it with your Weekly Sheet.

Video: Introduction to CMJ 3.05

We are going to listen to a song now that tells us of what Jesus has done for us, after which I am going to invite Alex to come and speak to us.

Song: Man of sorrows, what a name 4.20

Reading: Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 1: 1-16

Notes on the sermon by Alex Jacob

The significance of the City of Rome and the letter

Centre of the Empire.
Spiritual, economic and political power.
Strategic 'stepping stone' to the west.

Paul's most complete and reflective letter
Written to introduce himself and more importantly the Gospel
Historical significance - reform and renewal
Key to understanding the theology of Christian-Jewish relations (chapters 9-11)

Introductions- Paul

:1 Servant/Slave
:9 Serves with his whole heart
:11 Humility – mutual dependence- give and receive

Introductions- The message

:1 Gospel of God
:9 Gospel of His Son- Jesus focused.
:16 Gospel of power

Focus on :16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, and then for the Gentile.

...not ashamed- Rooted in Paul's own experience- Acts 8 :3
Acts 9
transformation, calling and equipping...

For everyone- YES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Acts 10---Acts 15

2 Bible study books- 100 Days with Acts & 60 Days with Romans

First (especially) for the Jew

I believe the Church has a priority calling to share the Gospel sensitively and appropriately with Jewish people.

Why?-

Not just historical pragmatism!

John 4 :22

Romans 1:16 –continuous present tense

Romans 9 :3-5

Romans 11 :12-16

Healthy spiritual dynamic

CMJ has been privileged to pioneer and share in this ministry for over 200 years!

4 ministry hubs in Israel

“Encourage Jewish People to come to faith in Jesus (Yeshua) as their Messiah, to support them in serving Him as Lord in the light of God’s purposes, and to equip the Church to be involved in this mission.”

How ?

- Evangelism- Community Based Evangelists/Street outreach/ Training
- Education- Leaders network, Study tours, Advocacy
- Encouragement – Links with Messianic Jews/Mercy fund etc.

Will you stand with us?

Local Supporting Church

Individuals

Pray

Giving

Volunteers

Visit website www.cmj.org.uk for more info and book sales

Prayers for CMJ - Mark (from Weekly Sheet)

- Give thanks for 211 years of ministry amongst Jewish people through dramatic times and pray that CMJ will continue to minister in a relevant way wherever in the world they work.
- At this time of Yom Kippur, please pray for the nation of Israel, that the eyes of the many secular people in that land may realise that the God of Israel not only exists, but that they may know His Son and Messiah, Jesus.
- Pray for CMJ workers worldwide that they may use the opportunity of the Jewish holidays to connect with others and reflect Jesus’ love and their words and actions.

- Pray for CMJ's work with churches that they seek to teach more of the importance of the Hebraic roots of the Christian faith that we as Paul may say that our *heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved* Romans 10:1

Song : Over all the Earth (Reign in me) 2.23

Closing words and blessing 1.00

That's it for this morning. Whether it be in person or online, we'll see you next week. *Let's stand for the blessing.*

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip us with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

May God bless you. Stay safe!

For Reflection and Discussion

1. Read Romans 1:1-16. Why is it so important that we bring the Good News to others? Why can we have complete confidence in it to change lives?
2. Take a look at these verses Alex gave us: John 4 :22, Romans 9 :3-5, Romans 11 :12-16. Why do you think that bringing the Good News to Jewish people is so important?
3. Take a look at Romans 10:16-21. What does it tell us about God's perseverance in the face of a people who rebelled against Him? What can we learn from this?