

Service Transcript

Sunday 30th May 2021

Service Leader: Ian Battiste

Speakers: Pete & Sami Greig with Gemma Hunt (The Unanswered Prayer Course)

God of Hope, we come into your presence this morning with confidence that you will meet with us.

Where there is sadness, bring joy; Where there is tiredness, bring refreshment; and where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope. Thank you that you are the God who never fails to keep his promises. We thank you that in Jesus' life, death and resurrection we see your hope, love, justice and victory. Our desire is to praise you as long as we live, so we would ask you fill us with your spirit and be with us in our praises as we gather with you this morning.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

Ring Out with Hope

"In John 20:20 - 21 When Jesus had appeared to the disciples, he said this: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

One of the most famous landmarks in London are the Houses of Parliament and one of its most famous features which I'm sure you'll agree is the large Elizabeth tower or what we now know today as "Big Ben." The name "Big Ben" refers to the great bell inside the tower and the bell weighs a staggering 14 tons. The bell was hung in what was then called the clock tower in 1858 and is probably the most broadcasted bell in the world. Its familiar dongs can be heard ringing in the New Year or at the start of ITVs 'News at Ten'. The clock face of Big Ben is around 23 feet in diameter and has been used in many TV and Films broadcasted around the world. During the Second World War the broadcast of the ringing of the bell helped give people hope of freedom. And so, when people across the world hear the ringing of 'Big Ben', or see pictures of the Elizabeth tower, they see it as a sign or symbol of many things - hope, freedom, and our political system of democracy with a parliament. But not so well known are the four bells of Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral which are named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; although I've read that some locals in Liverpool like to call them John, Paul, George and Ringo but that aside the message to the people is the same that these four bells are a reminder that we, too, are called to be good disciples of Christ. When the resurrected Jesus appeared to his disciples, he said, "As the father has sent me; I am sending you" so just like the disciples of Jesus we too are encouraged to "ring out" as we are filled with God's hope, joy and peace in broadcasting the Good News of the Gospel wherever we go and to whomever we encounter – Amen

Response for call to Worship

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we do not yet see, yet whom we love; whom we have not yet met, yet whom we trust!

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and praise; and celebrate what he has done for us!

Worship Song – Come, People of the Risen King

Heavenly Father, just as Jesus entered the locked room to show his disciples the beginning of a new world, so enter our hearts and move us to faith in Jesus Christ as the Risen One. Convince us of the reality and significance of the resurrection and hope, and free us from all manner of fears and phobias. Thank you Lord that we can have Hope even when may feel that everything going on around us is hopeless.

Thank you Lord that you make beauty out of brokenness and thank you for the comfort that we receive through you Lord. For you are a faithful God and we would ask that you would continue to help us to be that strong tower and give us the hope and courage in the face of death, knowing that this is the gateway to a new resurrected life for those who trust in Christ. Amen.

Worship Song – Blessed be the name of the Lord

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father that he has graciously allowed us to have access to the Word of God and of the truth it contains. This gives us the wisdom and hope to stand on the foundation of truth knowing that all good and perfect things come from God above. Yet even when we feel hope is lost; Jesus Christ is our Strong tower, our saviour and our healer he is the one who sustains us and we give thanks that we can come before him with our burdens and our brokenness knowing that HE is the one who can turn our brokenness into something beautiful for his glory. For he is the faithful one.

Worship Song – When the Tears Fall

The Unanswered Prayer Course Session 5: Easter Sunday

We have no transcript for this session. Hopefully the questions below will give you sufficient flavour for reflection.

1. The Bible says that we 'do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.' (1 Thess. 4:13). What did you find most helpful, inspiring or challenging in what Pete and Sammy Greig, Gemma Hunt and Ladan Nouri shared?
2. Thinking about an area of long-term disappointment in your life, how might an eternal perspective reframe the way you relate to it?
3. What do you think the new heaven and the new earth will be like? How will it be different? How will it be the same?

4. In the video Pete and Sammy Greig used a kintsugi bowl to illustrate the beauty that can come out of brokenness. Where can you see beauty coming out of brokenness in your life, or in the life of someone in this group?
5. The story of Ladan and the missionaries Mark and Gladys Bliss demonstrates that it can sometimes take months, years or even decades for fruit to come out of our suffering. Are there stories in our community's history of how challenges and trials have now produced fruit? Or are there opportunities for us to turn our current challenges into long-term fruit?
6. Eugene Peterson writes, "Faith develops out of the most difficult aspects of our existence, not the easiest." How do the stories you've heard across this course reflect and inspire you to keep persevering in the midst of challenges?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that through your endless love we have been born again to a life full of freedom and hope, thank you too that we belong to a family in Christ. Help us to share your love and teachings with everyone that we encounter. May we lavish Christ's abounding goodness and love upon our families, friends and colleagues and may the Holy Spirit come and equip us in all situations and help inspire us here in our community and beyond. Finally thank you for choosing us to bring your kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

Blessing

May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound *and* be overflowing with hope. Amen.