



WPBC Weekly

22nd March 2020

Worcester Park Baptist Church Weekly News

We live in unprecedented times and cannot meet together in the traditional sense at the moment, however we are using a live stream and printed material to be a gathered community of Christians, waiting to hear from God. If you would like to find out more about the Church, please contact hello@wpbc.org.uk. You can also find out more about us at wpbc.org.uk.

10:30am
Morning Worship
Live Stream

Access the live stream via
<https://wpbc.org.uk/live>

Title: Who do you say I am –
The soldiers look at Easter.

Preacher: Ian McLenaghan

Reading: Matthew 27:26-37, 54



Order of Service

Welcome (Rich)

Reading - Psalm 46 (Ali)

Prayers & Reflections (Ali)

1. Reflecting on the world-wide situation

Let's continue to pray for all our sisters and brothers across the world who have been, and are continuing to be, affected by COVID-19. We pray that all will know God's overwhelming, steadfast love. Pray for the countries currently suffering from the greatest outbreaks:

China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, Spain, Germany, USA

Psalm 91

2. We pray for those who are particularly fearful at the moment.

Pray for those in our communities who may feel vulnerable and scared. Pray that the love of God might be their peace. That they may know that even in the darkest times God's love brings hope.

Psalm 23

3. We pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods. Pray for those who are currently self-isolating in our neighbourhoods. Pray for older people who are concerned about shopping, regular hospital

appointments and general day to day contact with other people.

Bring to God the regular activities for older and more vulnerable people provided by our churches. Pray for wisdom for church leaders to know how to keep people connected and safe.

John 14:27

4. We pray for the medical staff on the frontline of care, we pray that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks.

Pray for medics in our own congregations. We pray that God will be their shield and their strength.

We pray for wisdom and insight as to how to support those in our congregations and communities involved in frontline care.

Isaiah 40:28-31

5. Pray for our world leaders and for the leaders in our own country that they will seek the wisdom of God as they make decisions over the coming days. Pray for physical strength for our leaders

6. We pray for all those leading the scientific response to COVID-19 across the world. Pray for the scientists from across the globe as they look for ways to alleviate symptoms and as they seek a vaccine for the future.

7. Pray for all God's people in this time of uncertainty and concern. That our eternal hope would make an earthly difference. Pray for a sense of calm and

clarity as well as strength to face what is ahead. That Christians will be 'beacons of hope' and 'carriers of the message of peace' at this time.

8. Pray for the work of missionaries overseas and their partners and local communities, especially those who are living in countries where the health services and infrastructure might not be adequate to protect a global pandemic. Pray that God will use His servants to accompany people pastorally and missionally through this valley of uncertainty, fear and even potential death. May we be a people of Hope in encouraging others in the face of crisis to lean on God's sustaining presence and unfailing providence.

9. We pray for others in all parts of our world who daily face the uncertainty of life.

We pray for those caught in war
We pray for those who face hunger today
We pray for those struggling with sickness and ill health because of other diseases, such as malaria.

We acknowledge the Lord's sovereignty in and through all things.

Ephesians 3:14-21

Prayer Activity (Ali)



Lord's Prayer (Ali)

Mothering Sunday Prayers (Ali)

Notices (Rich)

Reading (Ian) Matthew 27:26-37, 54

Message (Ian) *Notes on next page*

Response (Ali)

Close (Rich)

The Soldiers look at Easter

What did they know?

- This Jesus was accused of being a king
- Their 'king' was Caesar – that's what a king looks like
- Caesar wears a crown and a robe, he rules men and makes them fear him
- Being a king is all about power and strength, and the willingness to enforce your will
- Perhaps they'd even heard a rumour this Jesus was called son of God – another title Caesar used for himself

Some king!

- He has no crown or robe, no followers, no army. He's condemned to death.
- So, lets have a bit of fun. Hail, your majesty! The robe, the crown of thorns, the spitting, the beating.
- A squad of these same soldiers has the job of crucifying him. Dirty, brutal work. A death designed to degrade and humiliate.
- They keep the joke going with the sign over his head 'Jesus, king of the Jews'
- Surely this is utter defeat. He must be mad.

And yet...

- They saw the insults heaped on him, and that he didn't rail back at them.
- They saw the darkness come over the land.
- They heard him cry out to God in his need.

- It was probably one of them who offered the cheap wine (what 'vinegar' means here) to him.
- They saw him die, and nature itself be shattered in response.
- Terrifying, overawing.

The centurion's response

- Surely he was the Son of God (v34).
- What did he mean by it? It wouldn't be filled with the theological understanding we'd apply to it.
- Perhaps it was just picking up on that rumour, this man uses Caesar's title – son of god. He must be someone special after all.

What sort of king

- Jesus said what his kingship was like (Matthew 20:25) – the Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as ransom for many.
- Naïve? Pointless? Because it's the strong who win, not the weak?
- Yet we know the end of the story – Easter Sunday. God vindicates Jesus by raising him from the dead.
- Now the priorities of the universe are turned upside down – it is this kingship, and this king, who will triumph in the end.

Who do we say...

- The soldiers believed in strength and power as what rules the world
- Jesus offers another way – the servant king.
- Do we start by looking at him as someone ineffective, whose name can be used as a curse? Someone of little relevance to me?
- The soldiers started there, but whose name do we remember now?
- True strength was to serve, and to take all the burdens of the world's sin onto himself. God bearing our hurt and pain on his own shoulders.
- Some of them moved towards an understanding in just 1 day, albeit limited.
- This Jesus still puts the question to us. Who do you say I am?
- Jesus, king of the Jews, and of all people.

National Day of Prayer

Various denominations in the UK have designated today as a time to come to prayer in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. We are encouraged to light a candle at home at 7pm on Sunday 22nd March and read Psalm 23.

Prayer Event

Kat Mills will be hosting a **Facebook Live Prayer Event** for our private WPBC Facebook group at **8pm on Wed 25th March**. If you are not yet a member of this group, please contact Ali Mills.

Prayer Booklet & Daily SMS

We'll be sending out daily prayers by text message for the rest of March. It would be great if everyone would commit to using these prayers. There is also a Prayer Booklet available for those who are not using our text system.

Next Sunday

The preacher at next week's live stream will be Rowena Mills and the subject will be "Who do you say I am? – The thieves look at Easter".

Ideas

Do you have ideas of how the Church could respond best to community needs during the coronavirus pandemic? Please contact Charis or one of the deacons to chat through.

Joseph Rank Trust

We have a visit from John Higgs of the Joseph Rank Trust on Thurs 26th March. Please pray that his meeting with Charis and Jonathan would be productive and that the Trust would be able to award a grant to the Hub Project.

Church Directory

We will be producing the 2020 Church Directory with photos by the end of the month. If you have not yet signed up to ChurchSuite and added your photo, or completed an updated consent form, please do so by Wed 25th March. If you are struggling to get logged in to ChurchSuite please contact Ali Mills.

Having said that we would only produce paper copies of the directory for those who do not have email, we will be providing paper copies for all as the photos will be a great aid to pray for others within the church.

WPBC Weekly

Items to Ali Mills by Thurs at 8pm.
ali@wpbc.org.uk.

Get Involved

We'd love to hear your stories about the different ways you have been supporting family, neighbours, colleagues and friends through the coronavirus pandemic and how you have seen God at work. Please send them to hello@wpbc.org.uk so we can include them in next week's edition to inspire others.

If you are interested in helping out with our live streaming by recording a Bible Reading, testimony or other item, please contact hello@wpbc.org.uk

Giving

A large number of the WPBC community generously give to the church through the weekly offerings. Whilst we are not meeting together, if you are able to switch to giving via standing order or online at wpbc.org.uk/donate that would help us predict church income over the next few months. Please speak to David Hicks for more details.

Pastoral Care and Community Help

If you are able to be involved and/or coordinate shopping and practical help within the church family, please get in touch with Rowena Mills. This is also the time to get involved in serving your community through local road schemes, or to be in touch with your neighbours. Consider yourself released to do this if you are able!

Christian Content on Radio & TV

BBC1

- Songs of Praise BBC1. This Sunday 1.15pm Mothering Sunday
- Weekly church service on Sunday mornings BBC1 (planned, subject to outside broadcast capacity)

Radio 4

Radio 4 Sunday Service at 8.10am (this Sunday from Lambeth Palace with Justin Welby)

Radio 4 (LW) 9.45am daily service (15 minutes)

Premier Christian Radio broadcasts on MW 1305, 1332, 1413 and 1566 across Greater London and Surrey and on DAB and is also available on Freeview channel 725 and via a smart speaker such as Amazon Echo.

UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) has 2 stations which broadcast on DAB and at ucb.co.uk UCB plays a mix of contemporary Christian Music and UCB2 a mix of praise and worship music.

MyChurchSuite

MyChurchSuite allows individuals to view the Church Calendar, search the Church Directory, view and update your and/or your children's details, view the texts and emails sent out by WPBC, view Connect Group details and listen to WPBC Sermons. If you are struggling to get logged in and everything working, please speak to Ali Mills.



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