

FAITH MATTERS

A Commitment to Walk

Genesis 5 lists the generations from Adam to Noah. Verses 18-24 recall the life of Enoch, shining like a diamond in this earthly record of deaths. The ray of hope— 'Enoch walked with God'.

These words describe Enoch's close communion with God and his unwavering obedience to God in a corrupt culture. God rewarded Enoch's faithfulness by taking him to heaven while he was still alive. Death would not have the final word.

Enoch's walk reminds us that it is possible for us all to enjoy intimate communion with the Lord. Let's commit ourselves to walking faithfully with Him every day.

Every Blessing

EPCS Leadership Team

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Alpha@Sunderlandelim

Our Online Alpha course has been continuing during May and its been great to walk alongside those who are searching for something more. We start our Zoom session at 7.30pm and catch up with each other. We then join Mark Greenwood live as he introduces the weeks session. During that time we link with other Elim churches to hear how their Alpha group is doing. It's

so encouraging to know that across this nation hundreds of people are considering the same questions whilst on their own journey. We then watch that weeks video after which we split into groups for a time of discussion.

Please continue to pray for those attending. Some are yet to accept that Christ is what they need, others have a faith that needs to deepen.

Current Programme

Sunday

11am Sunday Service published on Facebook and YouTube
12noon After Service Catch Up Zoom.

Wednesday

7.30pm Alpha Course

Mon, Weds, Fri

Daily Devotion (Facebook Page/YouTube)
Daily Verse (Text)

Saturday

8am Zoom Prayer Meeting
Weekend Worship (Facebook)
Please get in touch for details

5th May Why did Jesus died?

The Problem

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' (Romans 3:23). • Pollution of sin (Mark 7:20–23) • Power of sin (John 8:34) • Penalty for sin (Romans 6:23) • Partition of sin (Isaiah 59:2)

The Solution

'The self-substitution of God' (1 Peter 2:24) • Agony of the cross (Isaiah 53:6)

The Result

The cross shows: We are infinitely valuable to God. Jesus is the supreme example of love (John 15:13). God is not aloof from suffering. The powers of evil have been defeated: the resurrection wasn't the reversal of a defeat; it was the manifestation of a victory.

The partition has been removed (2 Corinthians 5:19) The penalty has been paid. The power of sin has been broken - 'If the Son sets you free, you really will be free' (John 8:36, NLT). The pollution has been removed - '... the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin.' (1 John 1:7)

12th May How can I have faith?

This week we recognised that for some there is a definite moment in which they become a Christian; for others it is a more gradual process. When we receive Christ, we became a child of God (John 1:12) and God wants us to be sure of our faith ‘

The Word of God gives us promises that we can rely on ‘... faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of God.’ (Romans 10:17) , ‘I will come in’ (Revelation 3:20), ‘I am with you always’ (Matthew 28:20), ‘I give them eternal life’ (John 10:28)

The Work of Jesus means we can come exactly as we are. It’s not about what we it’s about what Jesus has done on the cross. It’s a free gift of God (Romans 6:23) but not cheap: it cost Jesus his life

The Witness of the Holy Spirit When someone becomes a Christian, God comes to live inside them by his Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). He transforms our characters (Galatians 5:22–23) and our relationships.

19th May Why and how do I prayer?

Prayer is the most important activity of our lives and helps develops a relationship with God. The answer to our prayers may be yes, no or not yet. We may not understand straight away why the answer is no or wait . How do we pray? Thank you – count your blessings, not your problems • Sorry – confess your sins (John 13:6–10) • Please – ‘Give us today our daily bread’ (Matthew 6:11): ask for anything you need

26th May Why and how do I read the Bible?

The Bible is the most popular, powerful and precious (Psalm 19:10) ... book in the world. It is God-breathed, he spoke to give us revelation. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.’ (2 Timothy 3:16). But what about difficulties in the Bible? Jesus is the interpretive key • It’s authoritative and gives practical wisdom.

The Bible is like a love letter from God. To those exploring faith (Romans 10:17; John 20:31), To those who are Christians.(2 Corinthians 3:18). It brings joy and peace in the midst of a storm (Psalm 23:5), guidance (Psalm 119:105), health/healing (Proverbs 4:20–22), defence against spiritual attack (Matthew 4:1–11), power (Hebrews 4:12) and cleansing (John 15:3)

COME ALIVE

All the things of this world
cannot satisfy
All the treasures on offer have
left me dry
Only You can satisfy

I have been empty, I’ve lost my
joy
I’ve tasted the pleasures of
earth and I’ve found that
Only You can satisfy
Jesus only You can satisfy

I come alive in Your grace
I come alive in Your grace
I’ll never be the same, Now I’m
born again
Now Your freedom sets me
free
I come alive in Your grace

All the things of this world
cannot satisfy
All the treasures on offer have
left me dry
Only You can satisfy
Jesus only You can satisfy

I come alive in Your grace
I come alive in Your grace
I’ll never be the same, Now I’m
born again
Now Your freedom sets me
free
I come alive in Your grace

Amazing grace how sweet the
sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I’m
found
Was blind but now I see
Was blind but now I see

Ian Yates and Joel Pridmore (c)
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A Selection of May Daily Verses

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, or, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10 12-13

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us

1 John 5:14

Church Family

David Harrison has sent a message that he wanted to share with his church family.

Hi everyone,
On Thursday 3rd June I went into the Freeman Hospital for a replacement of my 21 year old replacement hip. Although my original joint was way worse than the surgeon had imagined (he did not realise till he opened me up and the joints just fell out), he performed a 5 hour operation. The next day I managed to wash, dress, tidy up after myself and get out of bed into my chair.

It sounds so insignificant but anyone knowing my medical history will know how wonder-

ful it is. I ran a huge risk of losing my only leg. I believe then that there is no question that over the past 3 years or so, God has carried me through illness after illness and he is still doing it now. The surgeon was very worried about the operation and had serious misgivings but here I am.

I am so very grateful for all of your prayers and thoughts. As soon as I am able, I will once again start walking with my metal leg and I will walk into church to prove how much love God has shown me when I deserve nothing but contempt. Once again, bless you all and hoping to see you soon.

David

Reopening

For the remaining Sundays in June we are continuing to open and show the pre recorded services. From 4th July we will be recommencing In-person live services. Further details will follow in due course but a booking system will be in place.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

As many will know, this July sees the 50th anniversary of Elim Pentecostal Church Sunderland taking on the building at Durham Road. We plan to have a Celebration Service on Saturday 24th July at 1pm where we will give thanks to the Lord for his faithfulness. We will honor the past and look expectantly to the future. We will be joined by Paul Hudson, Regional Leader of the Midlands and North East Region.

Finance

May Income £ 1809.00 Expenditure £799.44

Can we please ask that you prayerfully consider your giving? Some of our members have set up standing orders for which we are thankful. If you are a member or regular attender and are not giving currently due to not being able to attend, could please get in touch so we can look at alternatives. Also if you are a UK Tax payer, you can gift aid your donation and we can claim 20% back. Please see Louise for details.

Children's Church and Sunday Youth Church

We have been blessed to have a joint Children's Church and SYC Zoom last month. This was another great time together where the children and young people were able to catch up with each other as well as a time of teaching. As always, we had fun playing games and showing our fantastic artistic skills. May has been a busy month as we have celebrated more birthdays together, we cannot believe how quick the children and young people are growing up, but we are glad we still get the chance to celebrate together.

In SYC we have been looking at the life of Moses and we have just started Joshua.

In Children's Church we have been looking at Joseph, the ascension, Pentecost and the disciples going out and spreading the good news.

We have loved the chance to gather in the building for another service with our children and young people. We were so happy to see many of our families and we would like to thank you again for coming to the service. We had some socially distant fun, played a quiz and games from our seats, made some craft activities, listened to a bible story and worshiped our Lord by dancing.

Please continue to pray that our Lord gives them His peace and protection as we go into our final half term for this school year.



Elim Pentecostal Church
Sunderland

We passionately believe that God has a plan and purpose for you, He loves you and wants you to come to know him through Jesus. We are a Christian community for all generations and nationalities.

We would love to hear from you too, so please send in any news, stories, prayer requests or praise reports.

Thank You..

And Finally...

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen."

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream! Why, I never! "Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart."

Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already."

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