

FAITH MATTERS

But only for a time!

These words are found in Daniel 11 v 24. They bring a new theme as one approaches the end of this book. As Daniel sees the end times, he sees a God with perfect timing over the affairs of the world.

We may wonder when the strain of this pandemic will be over. Rest assured, God sets the limits and establishes timelines. He is a God who says:

1. Only so far v22-24. God proclaims: Only so far, only so much, only for a time.
2. To no avail v27 The enemy will not have his way, God is in control.
3. I appoint v 29. He appoints everything and everything will work for His will.

Every Blessing

EPCS Leadership Team

Keeping in touch

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The King and the Kingdom

In April we concluded our Wednesday reflections on the “The King and the Kingdom.” Having reached the end, it would be good to take stock. So often we say, “done that!” having studied one piece of Christian teaching and rush on to

another, without taking time to let either affect us. Or perhaps they do affect us- making us feel even more inadequate than we did before! We’ve heard the teaching, we know what’s right now, but should we not be putting this into practice?

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 more details

The starting place for this kingdom is at the foot of the cross, where we come with nothing. There we receive Christ’s love - and the then power of His resurrection so we can live this kingdom life. And when we mess it up, we can come back to the cross, again and again. What other lord, what other king, would allow that?

Aim to count the cost, to understand the tensions and the need to encourage one another. In some ways the more we love God and long to see his kingdom come, the more we’ll find this world painful. The kingdom hasn’t yet fully come. Not everyone has yet submitted to Christ’s rule. One day every knee will bow, until then there’s a very real struggle.

Then find new faith in God and the power of Christ’s resurrection. Remember that His faith in us is an essential part of His plan to see his kingdom come. His kingdom winning through is not in doubt and he trusts us with parts to play as He achieves victory.

Matthew 5:17-20, 11:11-12, 24:14, 25:1-13, 25:31-46, 28: 16-20.

A Message of Encouragement

This last weekend has been a difficult one for our fellowship as on 1st May, 3 of us have been called home. Bill, Ted and Sheila were each much loved members of our church family. Some of us had known them for many years, some of us for just a few. We will each have our own memories and stories to tell.

As a church family we rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Their families and close friends may feel like their hearts are shattered, wounded. Comfort and healing may feel a long way off.

This is normal and people must allow themselves to grieve, but we must also trust in the hope that is given in scripture. Psalm 147:3 'He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds'. Our God knows and understands our pain and 'he heals'.

Our message on Sunday was brought by Paul Hudson. He spoke from Acts 5 and had entitled the message 'You can continue'. Some seasons may feel like your treading water, you can continue. One can feel imprisoned in the night but at daybreak you will rise again. You can continue.

Despite a pandemic, several lockdowns, the loss of our minister and the loss of loved ones, as a church, we have continued. Through technology we have continued to fellowship and worship together. We have continued to pray together and study God's word together. We have continued to teach our children and young people. Foodbank has continued to minister to our community. Our Alpha course is continuing spread the good news of the gospel. We are continuing.

This month will bring further change to our lives as additional relaxation of restrictions are expected to come into play from 17th May. Life is a cycle of change. Birth, death, graduations, weddings, job moves, house moves. Seasons come and seasons go. Our one constant— JESUS.

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

Hebrews 13 v 8

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm
What heights of love, what depths of
peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings
cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here, in the love of Christ, I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on that cross, as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin, on him, was laid
Here, in the death of Christ, I live

There in the ground, his body lay
Light of the world, by darkness, slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave, he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of
Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from his hand
'Til he returns or calls me home
Here, in the power of Christ, I stand

Keith Getty

A Selection of April Daily Verses

He who did not spare his own son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things .

Romans 8:12

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Matthew 16:27

Church Family

Congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Wandrum. Their wedding day was certainly blessed with glorious sunshine although Sue did keep Rob waiting at the alter, as she was fashionably late.

We welcome Rob into our church family and pray that their marriage is richly blessed.

We say a fond farewell to Nasir, Jane, Ella, Erica and Edward as they relocate to Leeds. Jane will be with us a little longer as she works out her notice. We pray that Nasir and the children will settle quickly into their new job and schools.



Congratulations to Heather on the birth of her first grandchild, Ethan. We pray that he will thrive and that one day he'll know Jesus for himself.

Reopening

We have started working towards reopening for In-person Sunday Worship from 30th May. To do this, we need to know how many people would like to attend. Can you please let us know what your intentions are.

Alpha

This week will be the third session of our Alpha course. We've been greatly encouraged each week as individuals have signed up not only from Sunderland but further afield. We've considered that "there must be more than this" and asked the question 'Who is Jesus?' This week we are looking at why Jesus needed to die. Please continue to pray for Alpha and that those seeking answers find them in Jesus.



Finance

April Income £2620 Expenditure £1380.30

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.

Children's Church and Sunday Youth Church

Since the last newsletter, we have celebrated Easter. We were able to gather together for a Children and Youth Easter Service on the Saturday afternoon. We would like to thank our children and their parents for joining us and following social distancing protocols. During the service we played games at our seats, dance along to worship, engaged in Easter crafts and activities, and learnt about the Easter story. All of our children and young people received an Easter gift bag full of activities and lots of chocolate! God blessed our time together and the children and young people really appreciated being able to see each other.

In both SYC and Children's Church we looked at the events leading up to Good Friday, Jesus crucifixion and resurrection. We then looked at how Jesus appeared to people including his appearing to the

women at the grave, in the upper room to the disciples, to Thomas on the road to Emmaus and to Peter and the disciples when he had been fishing.

We have continued with our Zoom calls to catch up with our children and young people, where we play games, have quizzes, share Jesus and have a great time together. We are sad to say Ella, Erica and Edward are no longer in Sunderland but we are glad that they are still able to join with us on Zoom for SYC and Children's Church. We pray God continues to help them settle in their new schools and life.

Please continue to pray for children and young people in this challenging time.



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..

I am an overcomer—because You have overcome.
I am victorious—because of Your resurrection victory.
I am Your child—because You have adopted me.
I am free from sin—because Your blood has redeemed me.
I am forgiven—because You have washed me clean.
I am healed—because of Your wounds.
I am justified—through faith in You.
I am revived—through the water of Your Word.
I am wonderfully made—because Your works are wonderful.
I am Your workmanship—designed with a purpose and destiny.
I am at peace—because I look to You, not my circumstances.
I am contented—because my satisfaction is in You.
I am a new creation—because You make all things new.
I am FREE—because Your truth sets me FREE!

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