

RYDE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICE

23 & 30 August 2020—Holiday Special

and for which to repent. The gentle voice of Jesus whispers his audit question into our ears, just as he calmly but deliberately uttered it into the ears of the first disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' Amongst all the clutter of other things that clamour for our commitment Jesus genuinely wants to know where we stand with him. How we have lived our lives, our passions and our priorities, will have silently answered that question already. (Poignantly, how we have maintained faith and fellowship during this lockdown period will have stealthily answered that question too.) Now, though, the question is asked loud and clear. 'Who am I to you?'

The Messiah, the Son of the Living God.

I wonder whether Peter actually realised the full significance of what he was saying in reply to Jesus. The Son of Man is the Son of God. In this rocky cliff place dedicated to emperors and pagan deities it is Jesus who is Lord, the chosen one spoken of through the prophets. (Heb 1:1) The writer of Hebrews captures this in an amazing flow of worship and devotion from the Old Testament. 'The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.' (Heb 1:3) This same Jesus, God has anointed (which is what Christ and Messiah mean) and placed on his throne to rule for ever, and his throne and his Lordship will never perish or end.

Serious Implications to Our Confession.

So, we need to be very careful about how we answer the question. In fact it isn't really our thoughts and words that fully answers the question anyway. It is the difference that Jesus being our Lord and Saviour makes to our daily lives that gives the clearest response. Are we really willing to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus—not just in theory but actually? '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.' (Matt 16:27) We are not saved by or through what we do, but how we act demonstrates the reality of our faith.

SUGGESTED SONG

You Are The Radiance/New Has Come
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBsem7dk1Zc>

BLESSING

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last for ever, my righteousness will never fail. (Isaiah 51:6)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.

<https://rydebaptist.xyz>

Dear Friends,

I'm old enough to remember the days when over the holiday months the TV stations would interrupt their usual Saturday evening schedules with Summer-time Specials. Well, today's Sunday Service Sheet and 7/52 are a bit like that because they cover two Sundays. Producing them this way allows the minister and church secretary to have some much-needed time off.

For too many people holiday plans have this year been interrupted, put on hold, rearranged, at home instead of abroad, and so on. Many have had to fly back urgently because of changing quarantine arrangements applying to different countries. Holidays aren't what they were, but we have good reason to give thanks to God that we live on a holiday island and can relax and enjoy the beauty of creation on our own door steps.

The word Holiday derives from the two words Holy and Day, recalling times of religious and spiritual significance rather than the season of pleasure we now know. Religious festivals had holy days associated with them. It is only in more recent years that holidays have become separate occasions and involved relo-

cating to more remote places. Specifically for Jews the Shabbat was the holy day, whilst the Lord's Day, the day of resurrection, took on special significance for Christians. These were the only regular days off during the week. The reality of life as God intends it is that we need a regular rhythm of work and rest to live well. Holidays become an important time of revival and restoration during the year, and it is important that they happen at regular intervals for the maintenance of our health, of body, mind, and spirit. Holidays should be a time to take a deep breath and reconnect with who we are and what really matters, as the clutter of everyday life is left behind.

Our Bible readings, which are worth reflecting on for an extended period this week, challenge us in some fundamental ways to go back to first base. Who are we and where have we come from? What is our purpose in life? Who is this Jesus who calls out to us down the ages through the prophets, and now in these days by the Holy Spirit? What is our relationship with him, and what is the nature of the mission to which he has called us? These are questions to which we must regularly return.

Our Zoom Sunday Morning Fellowship Meeting is at 10.30am on both 23 and 30 August, and our Monday Prayer Meetings at 7.00pm—following Pray For Ryde until the end of September. If you are able to join us, you will be welcome. If you are reading this sheet on your computer or device you can also click on the readings and songs. There are other helpful links at <https://rydebaptist.xyz>

PRAY FOR RYDE 2020

Launched on 1 July 2020, the themes for prayer are published daily. Visit prayfor-ryde.org for more information, videos and the link to the daily 7pm Zoom prayer meeting. Here are last week's themes: 16 August, Artists & Craftworkers; 17 August, Utility Workers; 18 August, Those Living With Dementia; 19 August, Good Neighbours Schemes; 20 August, Rotary & Lions Clubs; 21 August, WI, Mothers' Union, Friend 2 Friend, etc; 22 August, Banks & Building Societies. We will update the list here each occasion until 23 September.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was only one man, and I blessed him and made him many. (Isaiah 51:1-2)

BIBLE READINGS

[Isaiah 51:1-6](#)

[Matthew 16:13-28](#)

[Hebrews 1:1-14](#)

SUGGESTED SONGS

And Can It Be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tu2uA6U4Ffg>

Above All Powers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgarvpSvKpA>

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the holiday season. We recognise that this is very different for everyone this year. Please keep people safe and sensible. Thank you that you have built into the fabric of your creation the need for rest and recuperation. The seasons—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter—reflect your imagination and regenerating power. Help us to understand the need to follow the rhythms of life that you have instituted—one day in seven as a day of rest, being attune to the times and seasons of the year, taking much needed breaks, spending time with you in study, meditation and prayer. We praise you for the restoring power of the cross of Jesus, for the forgiveness of sin, the precious gift of eternal life, and the ongoing, renewing, regenerative presence of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

HOLIDAY TO DO LIST

What are your favourite things to do on holiday? For some people it is sitting by the pool or on a beach, snoozing or with a book. For others (like me) just the idea of this bores us to tears, and although we need a gentler pace of life we also want to explore new places and have new experiences. We can do all these things without going far from our front doors, without spending money or time sat in airports, on planes or waiting at ferry ports. What might you do differently to ensure you are able to take a sufficient holiday at home? Some of the best holidays are shared with others. Think about those people who are closest to you—either family, friends or neighbours. What is preventing them from having a holiday? Are there things you can do to help them take a break, get perspective or have a renewing experience? Pray for them, communicate with them, do something or send them something that will make them feel special, enable them to have a treat (a book, wine/chocolate, a takeaway meal, seeds, a family keepsake, flowers, etc.) The possibilities really are endless!

SUGGESTED SONGS

Jesus, Be The Centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw6rlwmkV6E>

You Are Worthy Of My Praise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJsN358apt8>

MINI-SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction. Caesarea Philippi was hardly a holiday destination, although it was somewhere that people in Jesus' day travelled to from far and wide. The shrine of the Greek god Pan was there, in front of a dark cavern that gushed water out into the river, a bit like a gateway into the underworld. In 14AD Philip the Tetrarch (Herod Philip II) had named the place after both himself and in honour of the emperor Caesar Augustus with whom he carried favour. There remains to this day the archaeological evidence of numerous shrines and temples dedicated to the various pagan cults and religious rites of that time. Up in the north of the region, Jesus would have had to take his disciples right out of the way to get there, a retreat from the busyness of Galilee and the stresses and pressures of the preceding weeks. An ideal place for a spiritual and practical stock check and reflection.

The Best Personal Audit Question Ever.

If we go to a spiritual director, pastor, councillor or coach, we can expect to be asked questions. Wise people ask themselves questions all the time, as it is the only effective way to reflect and to grow and develop as a person. Years ago when working in an office, there was regular panic when we got wind of a visit from the internal auditor. There is no need to panic here, though, unless we have something specific to confess