

Time travellers holiday club take-over service, 7th August 2022.

Call to worship:

Psalm 33 verses 12-22.

What joy for the nation whose God is the Lord, whose people God has chosen. The Lord looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From the throne he observes all who live on the earth. God made their heart, so understands everything they do. The best equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don't count on your warhorse to give you victory – for all its strength, it cannot save you. But the Lord watches over those with trust, those who rely on God's unfailing love.

God rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the Lord. God is our help and our shield. In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in God's holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

Prayer: Lord, we come to you now with our hearts and minds full. We have so many things going on, but now is the time to listen to you, and to hear your words. We put aside all the outside pressures and come into your inner circle of love and wisdom. Calm our minds so that we can focus on you Lord. Amen

Song: As we are gathered.

As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here.
Joined by the Spirit, built up in love
Part of the body, the Church of God.
As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here. (X2)

Intro to time travellers club: brief description of the holiday club to include

- Groups, point system, ages, number of children
- Upfront sessions, songs, bible stories, memory verses; John 14: 6, Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 10: 27, I am the good shepherd; my sheep know my voice and I know them." Matthew 19: 14, Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these children."
- Today's memory verse John 15: 5 "I am the vine and you are the branches."
- Crafts/activities, Food activity and games.
- Interactive prayers
- The countdown!

Song: time travellers theme song: going on a journey.

We're going on a journey, going on a journey
In our time machine
We're going on a journey, going on a journey
There's so much to be seen
We're going on a journey, going on a journey
Making some new friends
We're travelling fast into the past
Who knows where this journey ends?

Put the bible reading into the time machine.

Bible reading: Acts 16: 11-15 (Rachel)

We left Troas in a ship, and we sailed straight to the island of Samothrace. The next day we sailed to Neapolis. Then we went by land to Philippi, the leading city in that part of Macedonia It is also a Roman colony. We stayed there for several days

On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river. There we thought we would find them. There was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira her job was selling purple cloth. She worshipped the true God. The Lord opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. She and all the people She said, "If you think I am truly a believer in the Lord, then come stay in my house." And she persuaded us to stay with her.

Reflection:

Here we see a very important event – the Church moving from the Near East into Europe. And for this to happen, there needed to be several things in place – the first was that church did not occur in a building, but in a place that was easily accessed by the community. The second was a willingness to engage with the people who came there. The third was finding someone who could get enthused and carry it forward – Lydia the purple cloth seller. Strangely, we know little about Lydia. She was probably a wealthy widow in charge of her household. We assume she was Greek but we are not sure. All we really know is she was in the right place at the right time to do the work God needed to be done. I am not sure Luke and Paul were expecting a Greek woman to be the person God had tasked with leading the first European community of believers. This week we may have met some new people who may not be well known to us. Perhaps these people are like the people we would meet at the river if we didn't have a more formal place to pray ourselves. I hope we can be open and continue to have conversations "at the river" now that our holiday club is nearly over.

Song: Hello, Hello

We've travelled in our time machine
to somewhere that we've never been
we've landed in a different time
out of our craft we have to climb
to see what's happening around
now we are safely on the ground,
someone my age has looked my way,
I wonder what they want to say?

Who are you?
Hello how do you do?
The clothes you're wearing, they look rather odd!
Hello, hello, let's talk before you go:
I want to tell you all about my God.

Went for a swim, my friends and I:
The river close to Philippi,
And while we swam, before our eyes,
Some people came to be baptised,
Took off their shoes and waded in,
Said Jesus took away their sin.
I wonder if that's really true?
Is that a thing that God can do?

Who are you?
Hello how do you do?
The clothes you're wearing, they look rather odd!
Hello, hello, let's talk before you go:
I want to tell you all about my God.
I want to tell you all about my God.

Rachel: Who are you?

Puppet: My name's Zamira but my friends call me Zami. I'm 10 years old and I live here in Macedonia with my Aunt Lydia.

Rachel: Where are we?

Puppet: This is our river; well, it belongs to the whole town but a few times a week it is our river. These are our trees, our grass, and our river. We like to come here to play, to wash our cloths and to pray. We have no church in our city, so this is our special place.

Setting the scene: This story takes place by the banks of a river just outside the city of Macedonia. There are not many Jews living there and so there is no synagogue. I wonder where the Jews go to worship God?

Immersive story:

Everyone get comfortable, close your eyes and be still. Listen to my voice and relax. Try not to disturb the people around you as we are all concentrating.

Take a few deep breaths as you begin to relax. Breathe in long and deep to the count of five, four, three two, one, hold for three, then release it slowly to the count of six.

Breathe a few times until we are all relaxed and calm.

Now picture, right before you, a large door, standing all alone... go to the door, push it open, and walk through...

You are by the banks of the river in Macedonia.

It's a warm day and the sun is warming your face, your neck, your shoulders. You are happy here. Where are you sitting? Perhaps on the grass, or a rock, or perhaps a blanket. What can you feel under your body or feet?

What can you hear? Birds in the trees? The breeze rustling the leaves? The water bubbling and running in the river? Perhaps you can hear voices.

You are here with your family, with Lydia's family. Who are you sat with? I wonder what you are talking about together?

You like to come here as a family to wash the purple cloths that you make and to spend time with each other and with God.

You walk into the shallow water to wash the cloth; it is cold and makes your toes and fingers tingle. You see the purple ink from the cloth running into the clear water, and you watch it snake its way out into the river.

Perhaps you splash each other to cool off in the water. Now, you are lying or sitting on the riverbank; perhaps you are dangling your feet into the water. What are you thinking about today? You come here to talk to God, to pray. Take some time now to tell God what is on your heart and mind...

As you are praying, you notice a few men on the other side of the river. Lydia is talking to them. Can you hear what they are saying?

She is telling them that she sells cloth. She is telling them all about your family and how you come to the river each week to pray.

You hear that one of the men is called Paul. You watch as Paul is walking into the deepest part of the river with Lydia. He baptises her, and she goes under the water and then

comes back up, so she is totally wet all over. They begin to sing songs about God. Can you hear them?

Lydia comes to tell you that she has been baptised. This is to show that she is Jesus' friend, a Christian. She is asking if you would like to be baptised too, as part of her family. You follow her into deeper water; the water comes up to your waist. Paul asks if you believe in Jesus and want to be baptised.

How do you respond?

If you want to, then Paul also baptises you. You feel the cold water as you go under and then rise up out of the river. The water drips down your face and arms, and the sun warms you as you smile, knowing you are a child of God and Jesus is with you.

If you decide not yet, you return out of the water.

Today has been a good day by the river but now its time to leave.

You turn to go, and you see the door is still standing open... As you walk up to it, you take one last look behind you.. and find yourself back here in this room. Slowly, you wiggle your fingers and toes, .. stretch your arms and legs.. and , when you are ready, open your eyes.

Rachel: What's happened?

Puppet: Well, it was like any other day really. We had fun splashing around, we got the cloths rinsed in the water and we did what we always do here. But then, these men appeared. They said they were Christians, travelling around from place to place and telling people about Jesus and building the Church. I thought this was fabulous, because we need our own church built. But that's not what they meant. They told us that we are the church, the people ARE the church. Wherever we are, God is there. So, they meant that they are travelling around encouraging people to become part of God's big family, to be believers, to be Christians. We already believe in God, so it was an easy thing for us to do. We prayed together, we sang to God, and then the best bit of all, Paul, the main leader, baptised every single one of us, the whole family. And now we are part of God's big family.

Rachel: What can we take back with us?

How about a piece of purple cloth? Do you think people will still get baptised in the same way in the future?

Back to the future

Song:

My Jesus, My Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love

My Comfort, My Shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord, all the earth Let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name!
I sing for joy at the work of your hands
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

My Jesus, my Saviour
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love
My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Prayers of confession:

Forgive us, Lord,
when we are not kind to others;
forgive us if we have put up boundaries of difference, of preference,
of comfort, of attitude.
help us to take down any barriers we have created,
so that we can receive your forgiveness
and begin again in your name.
Amen.

Prayers of intercession; Prayer bubbles

Dear Lord Jesus,

You are our leader through the desert, our miracle worker and friend, always with us and ready to guide us.

Now we pray for the world... and particularly for the people in Ukraine as the war continues in their land, give them peace in their hearts, courage and love for one another. And for the leaders of countries that have the chance to make a difference – help them to make good decisions.

Blow bubbles as people give their prayers up.

- For our own country, as the commonwealth games has come to a close, for all the countries that took part, for Conservative party members who received their ballot papers this week as they decide which of Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss will become their new leader and our prime minister.
- As inflation continues to rise and put pressure on household finances, we pray for all the families and people we know who may be struggling. Give us the tools to help where we can and signpost on where we need to.
- We pray for our community in Rayleigh and surrounding area, we ask that through you Lord, we can be a shining light in this community of love, joy, peace and understanding, bring Spirit into this church and out into the community.
- And we pray for our own church family and friends, for those that are sick, in hospital, feeling low, or just unable to make it church today. Be with them all, wrap your healing arms around them Lord and let them know you are there.

Amen.

The Lords prayer: family friendly version:

Our Father in heaven, you are awesome!

Show us who you are and how you want us to be.

Make earth more like heaven.

Please give us what we need to keep going each day.

Help us when we are wrong and clean us up on the inside.

Help us to let other people off and move on.

Keep us from bad stuff.

You're in charge!

You're strong and powerful and always there.

Forever!

Amen.

Song: , I the Lord of Sea and Sky

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky,
I Have Heard My People Cry.
All Who Dwell In Dark And Sin,
My Hand Will Save.
I Who Made The Stars Of Night,
I Will Make Their Darkness Bright.
Who Will Bear My Light To Them?
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Snow And Rain,
I Have Borne My People's Pain.
I Have Wept For Love Of Them, They Turn Away.
I Will Break Their Hearts Of Stone,
Give Them Hearts For Love Alone.
I Will Speak My Word To Them
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

I, The Lord Of Wind And Flame
I Will Tend The Poor And Lame.
I Will Set A Feast For Them,
My Hand Will Save
Finest Bread I Will Provide,
Till Their Hearts Be Satisfied.
I Will Give My Life To Them,
Whom Shall I Send?

Here I Am Lord, Is It I, Lord?
I Have Heard You Calling In The Night.
I Will Go Lord, If You Lead Me.
I Will Hold Your People In My Heart.

Offering.

“I am the vine and you are the branches” John 15 verse 5

Belonging to God is a bit like the way seeds grow. They do nothing just sitting in a packet – they need to be rooted into something that will nourish and build them up and help them grow and bear fruit. In God’s family, we can grow our relationship with God and with God’s people, knowing that we’ve got our roots firmly planted in something really good. Jesus said, I am the vine and you are the branches.”

Action Prayer:

We come from different places (Point to each other) But now, with one voice, we can say (Cup hand around mouth like a megaphone), thank you Jesus, for joining us together in your love (Link hands) and rooting us in your ways (Stamp feet) where we can grow and play and learn (start crouching and grow tall). Amen.

Blessing song.

May God’s blessing be upon you now

May you know of his great love for you

May God’s blessing be upon you now

Right where you are

(Repeat X3)