



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on May 12th 2024 at 10:45, meeting at Bethesda Chapel.

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Our All-age service today is being led by Alec.

Alec gave a warm welcome to everyone, and introduced our theme for today - last week was "Rejoice", today we focus on the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and God's amazing love.

Alec demonstrated the actions for our Opening song, shown on the screen. (It reminded me of the song Y M C A, popular some years ago - I could never manage the actions to that either!!) -(I am unable to find the words for the first three songs, you may wish to use the YouTube links)

♪ "L-O-V-E ... love your neighbour as yourself"

Kids Worship Music | Compass Bible Church <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJ9te-Gtfew>

The second was also shown on the screen, again with people bouncing and signing:

♪ "YOUR LOVE FOR ME"

LifePoint Kids Worship with Motions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_r7kYuWXbM

NOTICES were then shared by Jane, of our usual weekly activities. Jane and Alec will be away from Friday till Sunday at the Baptist Assembly at Telford. Danny Cliff will be leading our worship next Sunday.

Story from the Bible, "THE LOST SON" was read by Carol. She showed pictures from the story as she read it, whilst Adelina held the microphone for her.

Alec then led a **QUIZ** based on the story we had just heard, with illustrations shown on the screen.

Time for some more Songs ♪ "THE PRODIGAL SON" a cartoon this time, with a catchy repetitive tune and words!!! Written for Year 4, 9 year olds in primary school.

SingKids! songs by Sue Bleazard <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m23qE9LzYw>

Followed by ♪ "IN CHRIST ALONE" accompanied by Kate, Paul W and Judith.

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:

till 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, can ever pluck me from His hand:
till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Authors: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty CCLI SONG # 3350395 Copyright © 2001 Thankyou Music (Adm. by CapitolCMG Publishing.com excl. UK & Europe, adm. by Integrity Music, part of the David C Cook family, songs@integritymusic.com) CCL no 566

Jane then led our Prayers including prayers for Tony and his brother, as their mother died on Friday night, and giving everyone the opportunity to write the names of the 'Prodigals' known to them on post-it notes, which were then brought to the front and stuck to a prayer board.

Heavenly Father, today we want to pray for all who are suffering loss, grieving for a lost child, a brother or sister, a parent or a close friend. We especially think of our friend Tony and his brother as they mourn the loss of their mother; please be very close to them and bring them your comfort and peace.

As we have been learning about the story Jesus told of the Prodigal Son as recorded in the Bible, who turned his back on his father, so we firstly pray for the many countries in the world who have turned their back on You, their Creator and Sustainer; places where Jesus isn't acknowledged, where oppression and violence reign, where there is no freedom for the people. We pray for their leaders and all those in authority, that you, Lord, would speak to their hearts, that they may see Jesus and know He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We pray for all the Christians in these countries that they may know Your protection and strength; through their lives may many more come to know the saving grace of God the Father, the only true God, who sent His Son, Jesus, to die and pay the price for the sin of the world, so that each one may know the forgiveness and love of their heavenly Father by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We pray particularly for Israel at this time, they are Your Chosen People, yet throughout history they have kept turning their back on Your ways and do not recognise Jesus as their Messiah. Please soften their hearts to understand Your compassion and love for all people. We pray too for the people of Gaza that peace would come quickly and aid would flow into that land and many there would come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

We pray for our own country which has lost its way by no longer following God's truth in so many areas of life. We pray for all the dark places that the light of Jesus may once again be

allowed to shine in to show right from wrong that many would turn to receive forgiveness and new life in His name.

Amen

Now we are going to pray for our own prodigals in a different way:

(The congregation were invited to write the names on post-its of family members or close friends who may have turned away from God, or not yet fully understood that Jesus died for them; the post-its were placed on a board and then they were all prayed for.)

Heavenly Father, we pray for everyone named on this board. You know who they are and we know that you care for them. Please speak to each one and create in them a desire to come home to You. Help them to turn away from whatever is holding them back from believing in Jesus. Enable them to have the courage to confess where they have gone wrong and to receive new life and real freedom in you. And Lord, help us to keep on praying for them, believing that you are able to do much more than we could ask or imagine, in Jesus' name.

Amen

Alec then invited all to share in Activity time in three groups at tables for 20 minutes. We had the choice of a game (similar to snakes and ladders), a mixed-up story to be re-arranged or colouring a Bible verse, with each group giving a short comment on the activity afterwards, before joining in a

🎵 **Closing song** asking for forgiveness from our Father in heaven, again shown on the screen.

Father I have sinned, help me find my way.

Remember not my sins; just let me hear you say

**I forgive you, I love you, You are mine,
take my hand, go in peace, sin no more, beloved one.**

Father I have turned my back and walked away,
depended on my strength and lived life my own way

I forgive you, I love you...

Father I have closed my heart to those in need,
thought only of myself, a victim of my greed.

I forgive you, I love you...

Father I have loved if love's the word to use;
I've played so many games, they've left me so confused

I forgive you, I love you...

Father I've returned, I'm home with you to stay,
standing by your door, knowing that you'll say

I forgive you, I love you...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hRL4sEsRX4>

We finished with Our Closing prayer including prayer of thanks for lunch.