**Sunday 2nd Aug 2020 10:45am from Beacon Community Church**

**Welcome – Pastor Paul who then introduces Paul & Fiona Jones to lead us in Worship.**

**The Promise of God’s Restoration for His people!**

**Isaiah 49:8-13**

**8**This is what the Lord says: “At just the right time, I will respond to you. On the day of salvation, I will help you. I will protect you and give you to the people  
    as my covenant with them. Through you I will re-establish the land of Israel  
    and assign it to its own people again.  
**9**I will say to the prisoners, ‘Come out in freedom,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Come into the light. ’They will be my sheep, grazing in green pastures and on hills that were previously bare.  
**10**They will neither hunger nor thirst. The searing sun will not reach them anymore.  
For the Lord in his mercy will lead them; he will lead them beside cool waters.  
**11**And I will make my mountains into level paths for them. The highways will be raised above the valleys.  
**12**See, my people will return from far away, from lands to the north and west,  
    and from as far south as Egypt.”

**13**Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains!  
For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering.

Message - **The Promise of God’s Restoration for His people!**

For generations, separations isolation and suffering have marked our society across the world, so the pandemic we have encountered is nothing new, only to us!

Yes, it has hurt, it has been painful and taxing to so many, yet through it all, have we learned to trust in Jesus, learned to trust in God, learned to depend upon His Word. As the hymn writer reminds us

Oh that this was our resolve today as we meet together for the first time in nearly 5 months.

Gods Word Promises us **restoration** – Restoring the sinner to a full and blessed relationship with God, through Jesus Christ in the Power of His Holy Spirit, restoration for folk separated by politics, polices and plights of governments the world over. He promises to heal the broken hearted and calm the troubled mind and heal our bodily frailties too. **This is our God**

This we can depend upon singing - what a faithful God have I. we may not be able to sing out loud here today, but we can indeed praise God, lifting up holy hands.

The Children of Israel were a people not too dissimilar to us, they were sinners and often failed to keep Gods commands – what ground do we have to disassociate ourselves from them, my goodness we haven’t learned much. – turn back to Isaiah 48 and you will see a catalogue of events that could have easily been record of todays society.

* Jacob is called to lead Israel -
* God assures the people He was going to do a new thing –
* You have heard His promises and seen them fulfilled –
* **9**Yet for my own sake and for the honour of my name I will hold back my anger and not wipe you out. **10**I have refined you, but not as silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.**11**I will rescue you for my sake— yes, for my own sake I will not let my reputation be tarnished, and I will not share my glory with idols!
* Come closer and listen to this. From the beginning I have told you plainly what would happen.”
* This is what the Lord says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God,  
      who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.  
  18Oh, that you had listened to my commands! Then you would have had peace flowing like a gentle river and righteousness rolling over you like waves in the sea.
* Yet even now, be free from your captivity  Leave Babylon and the Babylonians.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+48+&version=NLT#fen-NLT-18611b)]  
  Sing out this message! Shout it to the ends of the earth! The Lord has redeemed his servants,  
      the people of Israel.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+48+&version=NLT#fen-NLT-18611c)]  
  21They were not thirsty when he led them through the desert. He divided the rock,

Now listen to what God says – from Isaiah 49

If this promise was for Gods people just think of the connotation of us returning to God – we may have been isolated, hurt and struggled, But God promises – Just at the right time – He will bring us His Salvation, Help us, protect us, give us His New Covenant, we will be the sheep feeding in His pasture, never again will be thirsty, or hungry!

How can we Link with us today, **is all because of Jesus**

### [**John 4:14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A14&version=ESV)But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

[**John 7:38**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+7%3A38&version=ESV)Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’

[**John 6:35**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A35&version=ESV)Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

[**John 6:51**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A51&version=ESV)I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

When we have Jesus, we have all we ever need, it was great guidance and advise for the children of Israel and is priceless for us, when you couple it with the very words of Jesus.

Jesus is and should be our example for every detail of our lives – through the pain, suffering and hardship to know the power of His existence in our lives, as a living witness of His salvation for us.

Amen

**As we come to the end of our first service back together, for those of us here, or at home watching on Zoom or Facebook, we will be blessed as Paul and Fiona sing us out!**

Thank you, Paul & Fiona

Notices

Monday 8pm Prayer meeting on Zoom

Wednesday 8:15pm Coffee Chat and fellowship on Zoom

Tuesday & Thursday I will post a YouTube tube video of my course on Discipleship for all, on Facebook and in WhatsApp group. You can study it as you are able, then on the 13th August at 8pm we will have a Zoom meeting for all who are interested to correlate everything from the course and set us in a place to be the person God created us to be – A disciple of Jesus!

Sunday 9th Pastor Paul – for those here in Church on Zoom and Facebook

Sunday 16th Alan Oldroyd – ditto - Pastor Paul & Claire on Holiday

Sunday 23rd Roger Williams – ditto - Pastor Paul & Claire on Holiday

Sunday 30th Pastor Paul – ditto

Closing Prayer

May the God of all Grace be your **G**uiding light, **R**einforcing your faith in God, **A**ssuring you of your relationship with through **C**hrist our Saviour, Lord of our lives now and for **E**vermore. Amen

**Amen**