

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

SONG: Rescuer

CHILDREN'S TALK

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you
And against our fellow men,
In thought and word and deed,
In the evil we have done
And in the good we have not done,
Through ignorance, through weakness,
Through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may serve you
In newness of life

To the glory of your name. Amen.
Common Worship, © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England,
2000-2006

NOTICES (Children go to Sunday School and Crèche)

READING: Acts 16:6-24 (pg.925)

SONG: Holy Spirit

READING: Acts 16:25-40 (pg.925)

SERMON

PRAYERS

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen

SONG: On Merit Not My Own

COMMUNION

SONG: May The Peoples Praise You

BLESSING

Grace Church takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults seriously. If you have any concerns, please email Sarah Wilde at safeguarding@greenwich.church, or contact the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding Team (020 7939 9423). See www.greenwich.church/safeguarding.

NOTICES

Connect with us

If you're new at Grace Church, we'd love to connect. Sign up to our Newsletter or WhatsApp Group by scanning the QR code or emailing info@greenwich.church



Jesus: A Sceptic's Guide Events

9th May **Gruffalo-themed Messy Play**

9th May **Student Open Mic Night**

10th May **Candle-making Evening**

13th May **Football Night**

16th May **True Beauty Talk & Discussion**

17th May **Pastel de Nata Workshop**

Visit greenwich.church/sceptics to find out more and sign up

Gangster, Surgeon... Christian? *Guest services*

12th May (Canada W.): Tobias Brown, Ex Convict

12th May (Eltham): Sir Jeremy Cooke, Retired Judge

19th May: (Both) Piyush Jani, Cancer Surgeon

Giving

Grace Church is funded wholly by the donations of its members. See www.greenwich.church/give or set up a bank transfer (40-52-40/00027789) or to give tax efficiently contact treasurer@greenwich.church

Next Sunday, 12th May, Sceptics: Gangster

www.greenwich.church

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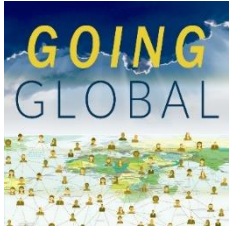
Welcome!

Sunday 5th May 2024

*“In my former book, Theophilus,
I wrote about all that Jesus
began to do and to teach...”*

Acts 1:1 (NIV)

Acts 16:6-40



⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the rulers. ²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practise." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. ³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

"I'm not really the churchy type."

1) Jesus pursues unlikely people

The seeker

The oppressed person

The secular person

2) And unites us into one family

The gospel's unstoppable

The gospel's for everyone

Coffee Questions:

What difference does it make to know that Jesus is the one who pursues people and draws them into his family: a) in how we feel about our own faith-journey?

And b) in how we feel about others coming to faith?

Are we ever tempted to disqualify ourselves, or others, from being "the Jesus type"? How does this passage help us?