

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

SONG: Here I Am to Worship

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)

RESPONSIVE READING: Luke 4:17b-19

SONG: And Can It Be

SONG: Show Us Christ

READING: Genesis 16:1-6

READING: Galatians 4:21-5:1 (pg. 974)

SERMON

PRAYERS

Q&A: Text 07520 632 065

SONG: This Is Amazing Grace

BLESSING

NOTICES

Connect with us

If you're new at Grace Church,
or wanting to be more involved,
we'd love to hear from you. Scan
the QR code or email
info@greenwich.church



Grace Groups

We'll meet to pray & study the Bible at 7:45pm in
the King William Building, Greenwich (Tuesday
and Wednesday) and at the Chantry, Mottingham,
(Wednesday).

Summer Weekend Away: 7-9 July

Tickets for Day-Visits are still available. See:
www.greenwich.church/weekendaway

Summer Timetable

No Sunday Services on July 9th (Weekend Away).

No Grace Groups after July 9th (Summer Break).

No afternoon service in Eltham in August, please
join instead :

10am Canada Water Library

10.45am Stephen Lawrence Building

Summer Fellowship on all Wednesdays in
August, 7.45pm at King William Building. We'll be
looking at the lives of missionary pioneers.

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@](mailto:treasurer@greenwich.church)
greenwich.church

Next Sunday, 2nd July, Galatians 5:2-6:18



Welcome!

Sunday 25th June 2023

*“For freedom Christ has set us free;
stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again
to a yoke of slavery.”*

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

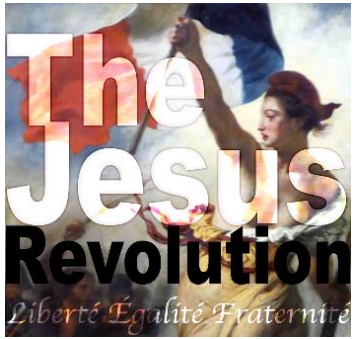
www.greenwich.church

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

Galatians 4:21-5:1 (ESV)



²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³ But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴ Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are

two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶ But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷ For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸ Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹ But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰ But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹ So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

5 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Hagar	Sarah
gave birth to Ishmael	gave birth to Isaac
according to the flesh	through promise
corresponds to the Old Covenant	corresponds to the New Covenant
Mount Sinai in Arabia = the present Jerusalem	the Jerusalem above
in slavery	free

Freedom and the horror of re-enslavement (5:1)

Understand how Israel became re-enslaved

Sinai was the very pinnacle of freedom (Exodus 19:4)
So how is it now “bearing children for slavery” (v24)?!

Consider the Genesis story

- Abraham had a son by Hagar “according to the flesh” (v23)
- rather than waiting for the son that would come “through promise” (v23) and “according to the Spirit” (v29; cf. 3:3)
- it was an attempt at self-salvation
- which results in no inheritance (v30)

Christians do not belong to this “save yourself” family and we should have nothing to do with it (vv30-31)

Consider the Isaiah story

- the original *Tale of Two Cities*
- the present Jerusalem went into exile and never returned but through the gospel we are children of a heavenly Jerusalem (Isaiah 54:1 cf. 51:2)

Christians do not belong to this “here and now” city and we shouldn’t be focussed on rebuilding it (vv26-27)

If Israel was re-enslaved, how easily we Gentiles could be

“Do not submit *again* to a yoke of slavery” (5:1; cf. 4:8-9)

COFFEE QUESTION:

How might we pervert the gospel of eternal freedom into a “save yourself” message about a “here and now” city?