



Sunday 17th May 2020

Online Service at 4pm

(Sunday School at 3.30pm)

www.greenwich.church/live

We will be streaming the service using the zoom app, which you will be prompted to download if you follow the link above. If you already have zoom installed, then you can manually join room 797 432 2434 with the password 310695. It's possible to just listen in, but we would prefer if as many as possible could participate using a webcam and microphone, so that it can be more interactive.

WELCOME (Andrew S)

*"How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings."
Psalm 36:7 (ESV)*

SONG: Blessed be your name (Caroline and All)

CHILDREN'S TALK (Jono)

CONFESSION (All)

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.

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NOTICES (Andrew S)

SMALL GROUPS (All)

CONGREGATIONAL READING (All)

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,

All: Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Leader: Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
your judgments are like the great deep;

All: Man and beast you save, O Lord.

Leader: How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

**All: The children of mankind take refuge
in the shadow of your wings.**

Leader: They feast on the abundance of your house,

**All: And you give them drink from the river of your
delights.**

Leader: For with you is the fountain of life;

All: In your light do we see light.

Leader: Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know
you,

All: And your righteousness to the upright of heart!

(Psalm 36:5-10)

READING: Ruth 1 (Johannah)

SERMON (Andrew L)

PRAYERS (Andrew O)

SONG: God moves in a mysterious way (Caroline and All)

BLESSING (Andrew S)

GOODBYE IN SMALL GROUPS (All)

OPTIONAL Q&A

Next Sunday 24th May:

God's kindness for all who take refuge in him – Ruth 2

God's kindness when life is bitter

Ruth 1



1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law,

and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." ¹⁸And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" ²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Is belief in God really a help in hard times?

1. The Lord is sovereignly at work in all situations to show kindness to those who seek refuge in him
2. Bitterness comes from being blind to the Lord's kindness
3. Courageous kindness comes from trusting in the Lord's kindness

COFFEE QUESTIONS

- What challenges are you facing at the moment? How does seeing how the Lord ultimately “works all things for good” in Ruth and in other bible accounts help us trust him when we’re in the middle of the mess?
- Courageous kindness comes from trusting in the Lord's kindness. What might it look like in your situation to act in a way that only makes sense if the Lord's kindness is factored into the equation?

PLEASE NOTE...

- 1. Welcome to Grace Church!** If you are joining us for the first time today online, we would love to connect with you in person. Please email immy.dancer@greenwich.church if you would like to be on our mailing list and leave your phone number if you would like someone to give you a call.
- 2. Amazon Smile:** you can now support our church through your online shopping. Visit amazon.smile.co.uk to place your Amazon orders and select Grace Church Greenwich as your chosen charity.
- 3. Daily Devotional:** we are hosting 15-minute zoom meetings at 1pm Monday to Friday this week for anyone who is free, at www.greenwich.church/live. There will be a short exposition from the Bible, prayer and a chance to chat in smaller groups.
- 4. Grace Groups:** we meet online in small groups on Wednesdays at 8pm to read God's word and pray for each other. Let us know if you'd like to join a group.
- 5. Bitesize Theology:** before Grace Groups, we are offering a 30-minute introduction to key Christian doctrines. This term we will be considering the biblical basis for what we do on Sundays. This week we are looking at the doctrine of *The Lord's Supper*. Tune in at 7:15pm for a prompt start on www.greenwich.church/live
- 6. Big Questions: Do we need God for justice?** Our monthly "Big Questions" series continues 31st May at 7pm on www.greenwich.church/live. Jeremy Cooke, a High Court judge, will give a talk followed by Q&A.
- 7. Jesus: a sceptic's guide:** from 7-14th June, we will hold a week of events online to introduce people to the claims of Christ, including special Sunday services at either end of the week. Flyers can be ordered through the weekly email. Our guest speaker, Tom Heasman, will be joining us on zoom to speak at various events including:
 - "The Offer of Satisfaction" (4pm, Sunday 7th June)
 - "The Offer of Peace" ((Wednesday 10th June) with a pub quiz)
 - Sunday 14th June 4pm "The Offer of Hope"
- 8. Talks Online:** you can catch up or listen again to the Sunday sermons either on the church website, via our iPhone or Android app, or via smart speaker (users on Amazon Echo devices just need to say "Open Grace Church Greenwich" and Google Home/Assistant users "Talk to Grace Church Greenwich")
- 9. Giving:** Grace Church is funded by the donations of its members. To support our work and give tax efficiently please contact treasurer@greenwich.church (40-52-40/00027789)

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Grace Church takes seriously the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns, please contact our Safeguarding Officer, Kate Squire (safeguarding@greenwich.church) or the Diocese of Southwark Safeguarding Officer, Kate Singleton (020 7939 9423). See www.greenwich.church/safeguarding

