



Sunday 26th April 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 L)

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

SONG: Come thou fount of every blessing
(Caroline and All)

CHILDREN'S TALK (Sarah)

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 L)

SMALL GROUPS (All)

READING: 2 Kings 20:1-11 (Philip)

CONGREGATIONAL READING (All)

Leader: But do not overlook this one fact, beloved,
All: **That with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**
Leader: The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness,
All: **But is patient toward you,**
Leader: Not wishing that any should perish,
All: **But that all should reach repentance.**
Leader: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
All: **And then the heavens will pass away with a roar,**
Leader: And the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved,
All: **And the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.**

READING: 2 Kings 20:12-21 (Immy)

SERMON (Andrew S)

PRAYERS (Claire C)

SONG: His mercy is more (Caroline and All)

BLESSING (Andrew L)

GOODBYE IN SMALL GROUPS (All)

OPTIONAL Q&A

Next Sunday 3rd May: The idol smasher – 2 Kings 21:1-23:30



Turning back the sundial

2 Kings 20

In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.’”² Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,³ “Now, O LORD, please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.⁴ And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:⁵ “Turn back, and say to Hezekiah the leader of my people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD,’⁶ and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David’s sake.”⁷ And Isaiah said, “Bring a cake of figs. And let them take and lay it on the boil, that he may recover.”

⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD on the third day?”⁹ And Isaiah said, “This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he has promised: shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?”¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, “It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. Rather let the shadow go back ten steps.”¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet called to the LORD, and he brought the shadow back ten steps, by which it had gone down on the steps of Ahaz.

¹² At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.¹³ And Hezekiah welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, “What did these men say? And from where did they come to

you?” And Hezekiah said, “They have come from a far country, from Babylon.”¹⁵ He said, “What have they seen in your house?” And Hezekiah answered, “They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show them.”

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁷ Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. ¹⁸ And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”¹⁹ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?”

²⁰ The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ²¹ And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

INTRODUCTION: How much time do we have left?

The message in c.701 BC

1) In his mercy, God gives 15 years more (20:1-11)

- For Hezekiah
- For the city of Jerusalem

2) In his wrath, God gives *only* 15 years more (20:12-21)

The message in 2020 AD

The New Covenant works the same way: we too are on borrowed time

- Repent!

The New Covenant works differently: Jesus is an *eternal*-Hezekiah

- Rejoice!

COFFEE QUESTIONS

(for those who are not Christians):

-what timescale have you set yourself for making decisions about life and death and spiritual things?
Why is it dangerous to put it off?

COFFEE QUESTIONS

(for those who are Christians):

-how will our priorities change if we remind ourselves that this world is on borrowed time?
How can we find comfort in the *eternal* kingdom of Jesus?

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. 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 thought from the Bible, some prayers and a chance to chat in smaller groups.
- 3. Christianity Explored:** this is a course for sceptics, enquirers or anyone else wanting to go over the foundations of Christianity. It continues this Tuesday at 8pm on www.greenwich.church/live. There is plenty of opportunity to ask questions, or just to listen if you prefer. Why not just come once to see if it is for you? Contact explore@greenwich.church
- 4. 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: *Worship*. Tune in at 7:15pm for a prompt start at www.greenwich.church/live
- 5. Grace Groups Online:** we meet 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.
- 6. Book Discussion:** we will meet to discuss *Dominion* by Tom Holland at 8pm, 4th May. Join us at www.greenwich.church/live.
- 7. Summer Camps:** an opportunity to be involved in Christian activity holidays for young people through leading a group, practical tasks, or cooking. We hope some might still go ahead. If you would like to know more, please ask one of the people listed below:
 - LDN 20th-30th July (Andrew Latimer, Nathan Killen)
- 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

