



Sunday 3rd 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 L)

*"God put Christ Jesus forward as a propitiation by his blood,
to be received by faith.
Romans 3:25 (ESV)"*

SONG: Christ alone
(Caroline and All)

CHILDREN'S TALK (Sam)

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)

CONGREGATIONAL READING (All)

Leader: In this the love of God was made manifest among us,
All: That God sent his only Son into the world,
So that we might live through him.
Leader: In this is love, not that we have loved God
All: But that he loved us and sent his Son
To be the propitiation for our sins.

READING: 2 Kings 23:1-14 (Pippa)

SERMON (Andrew S)

PRAYERS (Julia)

LORD'S SUPPER

Leader: Therefore, lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

We do not presume to come to this your table
merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.
We are not even worthy to gather up the crumbs
under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
who delights in showing mercy.
Grant us, therefore gracious Lord,
so to eat this bread and drink this wine
that our bodies and souls may be cleansed
by Christ's body and blood
And that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

SONG: Rock of ages cleft for me (Caroline and All)

BLESSING (Andrew L)

GOODBYE IN SMALL GROUPS (All)

OPTIONAL Q&A

*Next Sunday 10th May:
"Get out of my sight" – 2 Kings 23:31-25:3*

The idol smasher

2 Kings 21:1-23:30



23 Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. ² And the king went up to

the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. ³ And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant. ⁴ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of

heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. ⁵ And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens. ⁶ And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people. ⁷ And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah. ⁸ And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba. And he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city. ⁹ However, the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem,

but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.

¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech. ¹¹ And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the precincts. And he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. ¹² And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down and broke in pieces and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron. ¹³ And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ¹⁴ And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men.

1) Manasseh was really bad

He sinned

He led others into sin

He was just like King Jeroboam I

Jeroboam son of Nebat, king of Israel	Manasseh, king of Judah
“And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.” (2 Kings 17:17)	“And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.” (2 Kings 21:6)
“Jeroboam son of Nebat ... made Israel to sin” (1 Kings 16:26; 21:22; 22:52; 2 Kings 3:3; 10:29; 13:2, 11; 14:24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28; 17:21)	“Manasseh ... made Judah to sin” (21:11, 16)
Exiled to Assyria, 722BC	We can see where this is going...

2) Josiah was really good

He heard God’s law and repented

He led others to hear God’s law and repent

He was just like King David

3) But the really good doesn’t cancel out the really bad

“Thus says the LORD, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.” (22:16–17)

JOSIAH’S REFORMS (21:1-24) followed by this summary:

“Before [Josiah] there was no king like [Josiah], who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.” (23:25)

“Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. And the LORD said, ‘I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.’” (23:26–27)

4) Jesus “walked according to” God’s law

Like Josiah, he walked in God’s law

Like Josiah, he calls for repentance

Unlike Josiah, he brought *atonement*

“God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:3-4)

COFFEE QUESTIONS:

-What examples can you find of people trying to do good to *compensate*, when they are conscious of having done evil? You could think of examples in different religions, or in social situations, or in the internal struggling of our conscience.

-How does 2 Kings persuade you that attempts to pay God back are futile?

-What different motive does Jesus give us for doing good? Why is it more powerful?

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. Grace Groups (Prayer Gathering):** instead of our usual Bible studies, this Wednesdays at 8pm we will meet together on zoom to pray. Join us at www.greenwich.church/live.
- 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: *Music*. Tune in at 7:15pm for a prompt start at www.greenwich.church/live
- 6. Book Discussion:** we will meet to discuss *Dominion* by Tom Holland at 8pm this Monday. 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

