

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

SONG: The Church's One Foundation

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 leave for Sunday School and Crèche)

RESPONSES

SONG: He Is Lord

READINGS: Acts 5:12-26, 27-42 (pg. 913)

SERMON

PRAYERS

SONG: The Power Of The Cross

COMMUNION

SONG: Let Your Kingdom Come

BLESSING

www.greenwich.church

 @GCCGreenwich  GraceChurchGreenwich

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

NOTICES

Sex, Dating And Relationships Seminar – 25th February, 7.30-9.30pm

What does the Bible have to say about singleness, marriage, dating and sex? Come along to the Latimers' house as we think about how to honour God in our relationships. Please email fiona.mahendran@greenwich.church for more information.

Christianity Explored

A new Christianity Explored course will begin this Wednesday, 9th February at 8pm in the King William Building, Greenwich. This is a 7 week course going over the foundations of the Christian faith. Please contact explore@greenwich.church if you or someone you know might be interested.

Grace Groups

Our small group Bible studies meet on Wednesdays at 8pm (7.10pm for food) in the King William building, Greenwich. This week we will be studying Exodus 3:1-7:7.

Bitesize Theology – Suffering And Evil

We will continue our Bitesize Theology series this Wednesday with a short talk and Q&A on Suffering and Evil. This will happen before Grace Groups, starting at 7:15pm in the King William Building, Greenwich.

Giving

Grace Church is funded wholly by the donations of its members. To support our work and give tax efficiently please email treasurer@greenwich.church (40-52-40 / 00027789) or give through our website at www.greenwich.church/give

Next Sunday, 13th February: Acts 6:1-7



Welcome!

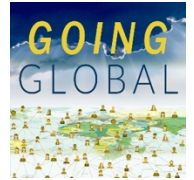
Sunday 6th February 2022

*"I will build my church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Matthew 16:18b (ESV)



Acts 5:12-42



¹² Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

¹⁷ But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰ "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³ "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵ And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honour by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

The Gamaliel Test: v38-39

The apostolic message is unstoppable

Divinely accredited (vv12-26) and emboldened (vv29-32) apostles

CONTEXT: 1:8; 4:29-31

With a life-changing message

"all the words of this Life" (v21)

Cross and Resurrection

Leader and Saviour

Repentance and Forgiveness (vv30-31)

And a God who opens doors (v19)

APPLICATION

But the gospel message advances unstoppably in much weakness

Imprisoned (v18)

Hated (v33)

Beaten (v40)

Killed (read on to chapter 7)

Cross-shaped

APPLICATION

COFFEE QUESTIONS:

How does this passage give you confidence for the future of the gospel in secular Britain? How does this passage challenge you in sharing your faith (if you are a Christian)?