

Reflection

Isaiah 61: 1-11

This week there will be groups of Erdington-based Christians out on the streets walking and praying. Praying for our community: to be a good place; to prosper; to be a place of justice; for God to move mightily and shine His light in our darkness and be in this "new day" as we awake out of lockdown. I do hope you will join in. Our allocated day as the starting point is Thursday, 8pm.

We draw inspiration from God's great promises and prophecy spoken through Isaiah, fulfilled in Jesus Christ. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us! (v.1) Here is an opportunity to make a difference in our community, in His awesome power!

Oaks of righteousness to display His glory (v. 3). Wow! That's us. We are mighty because God makes us so and we are mighty not to show how good we are but how good God is. And, this is our task: -

"build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities. The devastations of many generations" (v.4)

This week the UK Government announced big spending in an attempt to rescue the economy and ease some peoples' situations.

Our job is to play our part in this. We should be involved in every part of life: economics, politics, housing, welfare, racial justice, education...everything. But we have a special thing that we can lead on. We can pray and be people of restoration, rebuilding our broken community ground down by all that is happening.

Can you play your part? Come and join the prayer walking or if that's not possible, pray wherever you are!

Back to Church

Thank you to those people who have so far got back to me with their thoughts and suggestions on how we might safely and authentically return to church. If you are yet to do so, then please do!

Currently, I think it is fair to say that the majority of views I am hearing are reflected as follows: -

- continue with Zoom services
- continue with a service on YouTube
- some are very keen to return for services
- but some also have no plans to come back to the church building for services just now.
- agreement that it would be good to begin "gently" with weekday "quiet" services and then move to commence Sunday services in September, but most likely to be limited/invitation/pre-book only – maybe aimed at specific age groups? E.g. a family service and a quieter reflective one.

NB at present, congregational singing is not permitted and numbers attending are strictly limited.

Please let me know what you feel about all of this:

Phone/text/WhatsApp me – 07775465062

Email me – gerard.goshawk@gmail.com

Write to me – Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church, Wood End Road, Erdington B24 8AD.

I look forward to hearing from you!

God bless.

Gerard