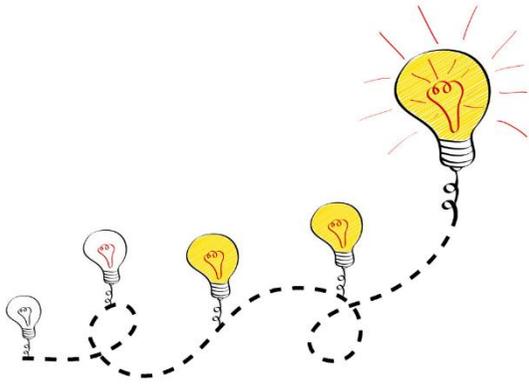




2020-2021
Sermon Series



2020-2021 Sermon Series

Brighter and Brighter: Living in God's Radical Kingdom

2021 marks a major milestone of our church – its 70th anniversary. While we thank God looking back at what He has accomplished especially in transforming the lives of generations of Christians through our church, we look forward to a brighter and brighter future as promised in Prov. 4:18: “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.” The Christian life and the Christian church are not static and do not stand still. We are on a journey towards a brighter and brighter future until we reach the stupendous climax on *the* full day, and the glorious destination of the new heaven and new earth in which righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13). The qualifier is “the righteous” and “righteousness;” the brighter and brighter future is promised for those who live a righteous life in God’s Radical Kingdom. This year’s sermons will focus on our journey together on this path of righteousness living in God’s Radical Kingdom, as we individually and corporately reframe, reform and restructure our lives for the next phase of CCiL’s expedition and expansion in London.



Sermon Series: **On Higher Grounds**

Psalm 120 kicks off a series of Psalms (Psalms 120-134) that are known as the “Psalm of Ascent,” and most believe that they were used liturgically by pilgrims who were on their upward journey to sacred city of Zion/Jerusalem, and particular its temple, to seek God’s blessing. In this first sermon series, we will engage in depth the reflections of these early pilgrims as they walk in the “path of the righteous” in their daily lives, and when confronted with national crisis. Like Psalm 120, many of these Psalms close without resolutions. Many of the verbs used, e.g. “sojourn” (*gwr*) and “lodge” (*škn*), serve as subtle reminders to the postexilic Jews living in

the Diaspora that they should regard their dwelling there as temporary. By studying these Psalms, we will not only gain comfort, learn to be honest / authentic with God, draw insights on how to trust God in our own particular circumstances, but will be reminded that we too are pilgrims and sojourners in this world: “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 3:20). We, like one of the hymn writers say, must press on the upward way, new heights to be gaining every day; still praying as we onward bound, “Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”

2020-12-06	The Vigilant God of the Church	Ps. 121
2020-12-13	A Song of Trust for Life's Crisis	Ps. 130
2020-12-20	A Song of Trust for the Harvest	Ps. 126
2020-12-27	A Song of Trust for the Family	Ps. 128
2021-01-03	A Song of Trust for the Individual	Ps. 139
2021-01-10	The King of the Church	Ps. 145



Sermon Series: **Vision Sundays**

At the beginning of the new year as we celebrate God’s provision, care, guidance and empowerment for the past 70 years of the CCiL journey, we also look forward to a brighter and brighter future (Prov. 4:18). Our future must, however, be inextricably linked to Jesus’ Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). We want our church to be a discipleship-making church, where each disciple grows to become more like Jesus in loving God, loving believers and loving our neighbours, emphasizing certain core individual and corporate values such as authenticity / integrity and godliness. As members of God’s radical kingdom, we also want to multiply, to reach out, and to help transform London and beyond.

2021-01-17	Brighter and Brighter	Prov. 4:18
2021-01-24	Vision and Mission	Matt. 28:19-20

2021-01-31 Values Sunday – Authenticity
2021-02-07 Values Sunday – Godliness
2021-02-14 Values Sunday – Multiplication

Eph. 4:20-25
1 Pet. 1:14-16
2 Tim. 2:1-2



Sermon Series: **Radical Discipleship (Topsy Turvy Spiritual Laws)**

Jesus does not only preach the message of repentance (Mark 1:15), he reconstructs the culture of his time, reframes its questions, reshapes its concerns, and redirects its hopes. As Forsyth says, Jesus and the early church “converted” their culture – they brought the gospel to bear on it so that it was radically changed. This series examines some of “topsy-turvy”, counter-cultural yet timeless principles introduced by Jesus and the apostles. The goal is to help reshape our habits, reframe our worldviews and re-engage our world with fresh Christian insights and godly kingdom values, both as individuals and as a church. Our “brighter and brighter” future must be one that whole-heartedly embraces these values.

2021-02-21 Last Becomes First
2021-02-28 Poverty Becomes Richness
2021-03-07 Death Becomes Life
2021-03-14 Least Becomes Great (Mother’s Day)
2021-03-21 Denying Oneself Becomes Fullness of Life
2021-03-28 Insignificant Becomes Significant

Matt. 19:29-20:16
2 Cor. 8:1-15
John 12:20-33
Mark 10:32-45
Matt. 16:13-28
Matt. 25:31-46



Sermon Series: **Living in Light of the Future**

While analysts, stock traders, weather broadcasters and politicians ply their trade in trying to predict what is coming round the corner, it seems to be more and more the case that the only certainty in our times is that nothing is certain. Billions of pounds are spent by companies trying to future-proof their assets. Countless sleepless nights are lost worrying about the loss of a job, succumbing to a sudden illness, the unexpected bill at the end of the month. All of these can cause fear and anxiety to plague our hearts, sap our spiritual vitality, and dim the light of the gospel in our lives.

Yet as Christians, we believe that God's word provides a clear and decisive picture of what is to come – a future where God is ultimately victorious. How can we fix our hearts and minds on this reality? How can we live today, in light of the things to come? Starting on Easter Sunday, we will spend this short sermon series reflecting on the vision of the future, presented in Revelation 20-21. How does Jesus' victory over Satan encourage us in our struggle against sin today? How does knowing that everyone will give an account before the judgement throne of God, shape your conversations with those who still don't know Jesus? If the church is the bride of Christ, how do we live in a way that reflects his love for us?

Join us as we dig into these exciting passages, and ask the holy Spirit to not only reveal to us a clear vision of the future, but also give us the power to live in light of the glorious age to come.

2021-04-04	Victory over Satan (Easter Sunday)	Rev. 20:7-10
2021-04-11	The Judgment Throne of God	Rev. 20:11-15
2021-04-18	The New Heavens and Earth	Rev. 21:1-8
2021-04-25	The Church as the Bride of Christ	Rev. 21:9-27



Sermon Series: **Ups and Downs Sojourning with God**

The story did not end when God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, the journey with God had just begun. It was not a smooth journey, there were ups and downs, success and failure, disappointment and hope. How did the Israelites get along with God in the desert? And how did God treat Israel? Their journey in the wilderness can help us know more about God and about being human.

The story also does not end today when we believe in God and are saved. Today, we are also on this journey with God. Following the Lord's path is not easy, we will also encounter difficulties, shortages, challenges, temptations, failures, and confusion. What lessons, reminders, encouragement, and hope does the story of Israel and God have for us today?

2021-05-02	Man's Hardship, God's Healing	Ex. 15:22-27
2021-05-09	Man's Protest, God's Provision	Ex. 16
2021-05-16	Man's Cooperation, God's Crusade	Ex. 17:8-16
2021-05-23	Man's Commitment, God's Covenant	Ex. 19:1-9; 24:1-11
2021-05-30	Man's Wretchedness, God's Wrath	Ex. 32
2021-06-06	Man's Offertory, God's Occupancy	Ex. 34:4-29; 40:34-35
2021-06-13	Man Proceeds, God Precedes	Ex. 40:34-38; Num. 33:1-49



2021-06-20: **Special Sunday on Family Discipleship** (Father's Day)



Sermon Series: **Radical Church**

The “brighter and brighter” future of any church community relies not merely on human words and actions, but on the Holy Spirit and on power (1 Cor. 2:4; 4:20). In this series we will examine carefully the work of the Spirit and the radical expressions of Christian faith of two church communities – the Jerusalem and the Antioch churches. These churches faced unprecedented difficulties at their times: a great famine “over all the world” (Acts 11:28), first ever persecution of the Christian faith (following Jesus’ death and resurrection; Acts 4:1ff), large-scale conversions of non-Jewish communities and the subsequent clashes with Jewish customs (Acts 15:3-5) etc. Yet both churches have an astonishing array of virtues: genuine care for members (Acts 2:45; 4:34), unity in prayer (Acts 4:24), discipline in worship and fasting (Acts 13:2), unreserved generosity (Acts 11:29), love of studying Scriptures (Acts 11:26), and even a multicultural leadership team composed of teachers and prophets (Acts 13:1). No wonder the Holy Spirit selected both churches as the bases for Christian missions. It was at Antioch that the disciples of Jesus were first called Christians. (Acts 11:26), and God continued to add “to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). Both churches are models that we must learn from, and be transformed into.

2021-06-27	A Truly Radical Community	Acts 15:1-29
2021-07-04	A Truly Caring and Prophetic Community	Acts 11:19-30 (cf. 1 Cor. 16:1-3)
2021-07-11	A Truly Vibrant and Missional Community	Acts 13:1-5
2021-07-18	A Truly Courageous and United Community	Acts 4:24-35



Sermon Series: **Brighter Leadership**

“Leadership is lifting a person's vision to higher sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations.” — Peter Drucker

Biblical leadership takes us even higher and brighter into the exhilarating realm of impossibilities: think the unthinkable, do the undoable and achieve the unachievable. It combines the unique blend of subservient alignment to God's call and fearless attainment to God's vision.

The biblical narratives are full of leaders, many of whom were flawed as was humanity. Therefore, we can learn from their failures and successes many precious lessons in order to be God-fearing and God-pleasing leaders.

2021-07-25	The Leader Who Turned from Success to Shame – Saul	1 Sam. 15:1-35
2021-08-01	The Leader Who Turned from Defeat to Feat – David	1 Sam. 30:1-24
2021-08-08	The Leader Who Turned from Promise to Compromise – Asa	2 Chron. 15:18-16:13
2021-08-15	The Leader Who Turned from Conqueror to Leper – Uzziah	2 Chron. 26:1-23
2021-08-22	The Leader Who Turned from Prayer to Fighter – Hezekiah	2 Kings 19:1-37
2021-08-29	The Leader Who Really Cared about God's Temple and Word – Josiah	2 Kings 22:1-20
2021-09-05	The Leader Who Really Cared about Integrity and Principles – Nehemiah	Neh. 13:1-31



Sermon Series: **A Faith That Works**

“Justification by Faith” is a key doctrine of the Christian faith because the Bible tells us that we cannot save ourselves. Only by believing in Jesus Christ can we be saved and our relationship with God be restored. Yet, is our Faith in Christ evident or is it just lip services? Is our Faith sustainable in trials? Does our Faith change our lives? What is the relationship between Faith, Works and Prayer? Let us reflect on our Faith in Christ through the book of James in the coming four weeks.

2021-09-12	Faith that Withstands Trials	Jas. 1:1-8
2021-09-19	Faith that Transforms Life	Jas. 1:19-27
2021-09-26	<i>Special Sunday</i>	
2021-10-03	Faith that is Tangible	Jas. 2:14-26
2021-10-10	Faith that Becomes Visible – the Power of Prayer	Jas. 5:13-20



Sermon Series: **Special Mission Series** (from 2021-10-17 to 2021-11-28)



Sermon Series: **The Brightest Gift to Give**

Contemporary Christians tend to trivialize the birth of Christ especially in view of his death. The accounts of Jesus’ birth are often so commonplace, so stereotyped and commercialized that we rarely give them even a thought. But it is at the incarnation, at his birth, that the greatest miracle of all occurred: that the Word became flesh (John 1:14), that God would become man (John 20:28; Rom. 9:5), that the immortal became mortal (Rom. 6:9; cf. 1 Tim. 6:16), that rich would become so poor (2 Cor. 8:9). As J.I. Packer writes,

“The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.” Not only is God revealed in the magnificence of his glory through the miracle of the incarnation (John 1:14-15), but we can also learn from the event how to relate to one another through the self-sacrificing model of Jesus, who “though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.” (Phil. 2:5-6). “When time was fulfilled,” writes Karl Barth, “God had done something for us for long enough. He put himself at risk, made himself dependent upon us, identified himself with the non-identical. From now, *it is high time for us to do something for him.*” These four sermons, therefore, not only anticipate Christmas but remind us that God gave us the Brightest Gift of all (in the person of Jesus) in order that we may share it with those around us: “Freely you have received; freely give.” (Matt. 10:8). Put differently, these sermons are not meant to be merely meditative but missional.

2021-12-05	The Sinless Christ
2021-12-12	The Helpless Christ
2021-12-19	The Hidden Christ
2021-12-26	The Glorious Christ

Matt. 2:1-12; Heb. 4:15
Matt. 2:13-21; Matt. 9:36
Luke 2:25-38; Col. 1:26
Luke 2:8-16; Heb. 1:1-4

