

Feltham Evangelical Church

A Bible-based church making known the Christian Faith

Newsletter: September 2020

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Calendar

w/c 30th August

Sun 30th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Andrew Heron)
Sun 30th 11.00.am. - Morning
Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 30th 5.00.pm. - Evening Service
(Philip Venables)
Tues 1st 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 2nd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (2 Cor. 12:14-21)
Thurs 3rd 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 5th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 6th September

Sun 6th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Josh Venables)
Sun 6th 11.00.am. - Morning Worship
(Philip Venables)
Sun 6th 5.00.pm. - Evening Worship
(Philip Venables)
Tues 8th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 8th 7.30.pm. - Elders Meeting
Wed 9th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (2 Cor. 13:1-10)
Thurs 10th 6.30.am. - Prayer
Meeting

Sat 12th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting
w/c 13th September (week of
prayer)

Sun 13th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper
(Philip Venables).
Sun 13th 11.00.am. - Morning
Worship (Philip Venables)
Sun 13th 5.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting
Mon 14th 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 15th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting

Wed 16th 7.30.pm. - Mission Prayer /
Bible Study (2 Cor. 13:11-13)

Thurs 17th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 17th 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting
Fri 18th 7.30.pm. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 19th 9.00.am. - Prayer Meeting
Sat 19th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 20th September

Sun 20th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
(Neil Harcourt)
Sun 20th 11.00.am. - Morning
Worship (Philip Venables).
Sun 20th 5.00.pm. - Evening Worship
(Philip Venables)
Tues 22nd 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Tues 22nd 7.30.pm. - Elders Meeting
Wed 23rd 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study (Andrew Heron)
Thurs 24th 6.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Thurs 24th 7.30.pm. - Church
Members Meeting
Sat 26th 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

w/c 27th September

Sun 27th 9.30.am. - Lord's Supper.
(Dmitri Filchev)
Sun 27th 11.00.am. - Morning
Worship (Ravin Pradham)
Sun 27th 5.00.pm. - Evening Worship
(Philip Venables)
Tues 29th 9.30.am. - Prayer Meeting
Wed 30th 7.30.pm. - Prayer / Bible
Study / Report (Rob Goodgame)
Thurs 1st (October) 6.30.am. - Prayer
Meeting
Sat 3rd 9.00.pm. - Prayer Meeting

News

Vincent, Brigitte, Romaric and Gabriella Claude are due to be baptized at Eglise Evangelique Protestante in Limay near Paris on September 19th. We pray for them as they confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Abraham Dodd has appealed against the decision made by the Home Office for him to return to Ghana. Let us pray for Abraham and his future as he goes through this process.

Notes

Church Members' Meeting On September 24th the church members meet for fellowship and to consider issues in the life of the church. Pray for a time of knowing the Lord and his way for the church together. This will take the form of our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Week of Prayer With the autumn term before us, and as we seek to move forward through the coronavirus outbreak, we want to put all the affairs of the church in the Lord's hands. Accordingly, we are due to have a week of prayer in the week beginning on September 13th. We need the power of the Lord upon us by His Spirit and so we must pray. For details of the prayer meetings please see Calendar above. We plan to have a mixture of meetings at the church premises and using zoom.

Baptism and Church Membership Every true Christian should be baptized and be a church member. If you want to be baptized and/or become a member of the church please speak to one of the elders.

Meeting Arrangements The basis for us presently meeting together: is contained in this document:

<http://www.felthamevangelicalchurch.org.uk/fec/wp/content/uploads/2020/08/Coronavirus-document-to-be-circulated-Updated-Aug-2020.pdf>

All who wish to attend services at the church building should be aware of its contents.

Spiritual Notes

Go love again

The book of Hosea tells of the passionate self-sacrificing, overwhelming love that God has for His people. One of the key ways that the Lord portrays this to us is through the love that He calls Hosea to express to his adulterous wife, Gomer. We understand something of the heart of our God when we enter into the experience of Hosea and marvel at how he could persist in loving a wife who callously continued to betray him.

A key passage in grasping this is in Hosea 3:1. Here we read: And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

First, let us consider the love of our God for His people here. God's love is a relentless love; it is a “go again” kind of love, and it is an underserved love. Gomer, like us, was one who had prostituted herself to others. With her it was giving herself to other men; with us it is giving ourselves to other gods. We set our hearts on fashions, entertainment, sports and whole range of things which become gods when they captivate our hearts. Furthermore, we go for all the paraphernalia associated with these other gods, like the raisin cakes the nation of Israel loved, and seek to find our fulfilment in them. Our behaviour is simply outrageous, as was that of Gomer.

And yet God still loves us. He still comes again to woo us. He is the God of the eternal covenant (see Heb. 13.20) who remains faithful to His commitments, as Hosea did. Whilst we, like Gomer, mock our covenant committent by our unfaithfulness, God abides

faithful. Everyday we are prone to choose the idols of success, personal fulfilment, popularity and fleshly indulgence over the pursuit of our God. We are so foolish and yet God still comes again in love and to love.

We cannot grasp the extent of this love. But we should be filled with worship that this God is our God. He continually comes and is faithful to His covenant. We should be so thankful that we are a people of the blood of the eternal covenant (Heb. 13:20b). This is the love that God has displayed towards us in His Son giving himself at Calvary's cross. Thanksgiving, worship, praise and also a commitment to faithfulness should flow from our hearts and into our lives as we grasp this love. Moreover, we should be challenged to consider the wickedness of our own hearts and their tendency to wander from the God who loves us. Let us commit ourselves to covenant faithfulness when we see our God reflected through Hosea.

But what of our love for others? We turn secondly, to this issue. Surely there are lessons here. We are called to love as God loves. We are called to a “go again love.” Upon someone's rejection and failure to love us back, we tend towards giving up. “This is what happened last time and therefore I am not going to demonstrate my love again” is what we say.

And after being hurt once by being rejected we risk the same happening again if we go again and express love. The depth of the situation is magnified because if we do want to love, we are displaying a tenderness of heart and such tender hearts feel deeply the potency of rejection.

But what are we to do? We are to go love again. This does not mean that we avoid being firm. But it does mean that we have the inclination to want the best for others. The intensity of this is particularly manifest when there are covenant obligations in

relationships, like there were between Hosea and Gomer. Marriages, parenting and church membership all entail this and we should be diligent to be Hosea-like in our determination to fulfil our covenant vows to one another and “go love again”.

But what of the situation where you feel you are completely out of love. Rejection and lack of respect have left you emptied of any impetus to love. So what are you to do when you hear the call to “go love again”. There is only one solution. You need to go back to the God who is love and ask for a fresh infilling of His love, which is the only pure love, from the Spirit who is love.