



Sunday 26th April 2020

Family Service

**Prepared by the
Callaghan Family**

Welcome to our Family Service

We hope that you are all well and enjoying the wonderful sunshine and that you are able to get out (albeit for just a short time)

I found it rather strange putting together a family service in that no-one was there in front of me so Martha and I thought we would create the church...

We also have the band with us and Barbara on the piano...



Within the video I also created a treasure hunt for the children and asked them to spot how many different love hearts or the word love they could spot as the video went along.

Oh and we also had some special guests too ...more about them later.



With the fun bit over
Sarah opened our
service with a prayer



Dear Lord Jesus.

We thank you for who you are We thank you that
you are always with us - you are ever faithful.
We thank you for this beautiful world and
especially the part we live in, for the lovely
weather we have been having, for eyes to see the
beauty of your creation and ears to hear it.
Lord we welcome you this morning. We pray Lord
you will inhabit our praises as we worship
together.

We ask this in your precious name. Amen



One of the songs Sarah and I have chosen is My
Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

In the song we have such words as

*In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea*

Then later on we have the words

*I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea*



As well as the repeating line that says
You will carry me safe to shore.

Our service has the theme of **continuity**.

It focus's on God's continued love for us during
whatever we face. Our second song we thought about
was Reckless Love.

With words like...

*Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of
God*

*Oh, it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the
ninety-nine*

*I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give
Yourself away*

Oh the overwhelming
NEVER-ENDING
RECKLESS love of God
OH IT CHASES ME DOWN
FIGHTS 'TIL I'M FOUND
LEAVES THE NINETY-NINE
I COULDN'T EARN IT, AND I DON'T DESERVE IT, STILL, YOU GIVE YOURSELF AWAY
Oh THE OVERWHELMING never-ending RECKLESS love of GOD
THERE'S NO SHADOW YOU WON'T light up
MOUNTAIN YOU WON'T CLIMB UP
coming after me
THERE'S NO lie you won't kick down
COMING AFTER ME

We are living in rather strange times, a few weeks ago Sarah made the comment (Phil mentioned it too in his service on Palm Sunday) that a few months if someone had said that we would be unable to leave our homes, to go shopping, come to church, see friends and that the schools would be shut until.... They reopen at some point.

She said she would never have believed it – it's like living in a film. A bit like the Truman Show – now the Truman show is a film about a man who was being brought up in a huge film studio and everyone he met was an actor...

And talking about films reminds me of something that winds Sarah up. Whenever we watch a movie at home or at the pictures I point out errors in continuity.

Continuity is when a movie flows along without any random bits or sudden changes in the scene. An error can occur such as frequently did/or still does in soap operas which have a very fast turn round to film edit and get on TV.



Spot the difference...



Classic errors such as a shot of two people talking and one has a drink from a glass or lights a cigarette, then moments later a close up shows the glass is full again or the cigarette is very short then a cut back to the two people again and the glass is empty and the cigarette is long again.

It happens so quickly that most of us miss it.

There have been some famous ones such as the classic 1959 movie Ben-Hur which has a car in the background as the chariot race is taking place – however modern computer work on the movie has now removed the car. Or during a Victorian or medieval film an actor has place a coffee cup or plastic bottle on the set which is missed and appears in the movie.



There are some people that make it a passion to spot these errors in new movies (I don't take it that far).

The word continuity means...quote from the dictionary

“the unbroken and consistent existence or operation of something over time.”

At the moment life is like living in a film - but one that has got problems with its continuity.

Basic everyday things like shopping have to be done differently. Sarah now shops online doing the click and collect...



then we have the wash and drip dry. Everything that comes into our house we wash in hot soapy water – I won't recommend washing a box of cornflakes...



This washing does cause a problem though when the labels fall off tins. The other day the girls wanted beans on toast for lunch so we did and hip dip dip on three tins

and put the contents on the toast which happened to be cat food!

So as it was open we spread it across the toast saying it was salmon fish pate in jelly.

And everything was fine the kids ate it no problem.

Although we did catch Martha chasing the birds off the lawn later on in the afternoon, only joking - she wasn't chasing the birds -

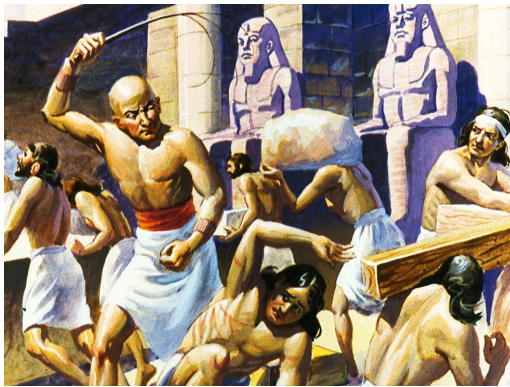
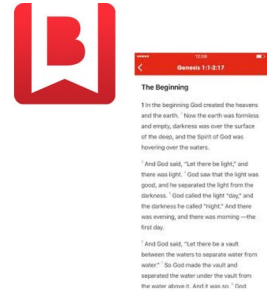
but she was eyeing up the guinea pigs....



Our continuity may have been broken and we seem to have lots of down days. I have been very encouraged by Nicky Gumbel (the guy that wrote the Alpha Course).

Each day I have been using the Alpha Bible Readings on my phone...it is great we have a reading from Psalms, then readings from both the Old and New Testament. Each section is followed by a talk and prayer from Nicky. As we were going into 'Lockdown' the readings focused on Moses and his leading the people out of Egypt and into the promised land.

These people had a stable life in Egypt having been there for around 430 years so their life was constant, unchanging that is until we read...



In Exodus 1:6-11 that a new king ruled Egypt and he knew nothing about the events of Joseph hundreds of years before - so he put the Israelites into slavery, getting them to build cities.

Exodus then records the birth of Moses and his eventual leading of the people out from slavery and on into freedom. And as the people left the normal everyday way of life albeit a life of hardship and slavery and on into freedom they complained about it constantly to Moses. They didn't see/couldn't see the bigger picture their own land and freedom from the day to day grind of the slave drivers and overseers. In all their ups and many downs the Israelites faced during the forty years of wondering there was a constant there was continuity and that was God.

The song Faithful One is a great up lifting song for this present time.

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again
You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone



A photograph of two Muppet-style puppets sitting on a tan-colored couch. The puppet on the left is pink with a large blue nose and is wearing a pink and white striped shirt. The puppet on the right is blue with a large yellow nose and is wearing a red shirt. Both puppets have large, expressive eyes and are looking towards the camera.

A middle-aged man with glasses and a blue and white checkered shirt is sitting in a large, dark brown leather armchair. He is looking directly at the camera and appears to be speaking. His hands are clasped in his lap. To his left, a stack of books is visible on the floor. To his right, a wooden side table holds a green lamp with a patterned shade, a white mug, and a small black object. A potted plant is visible in the background on the right.

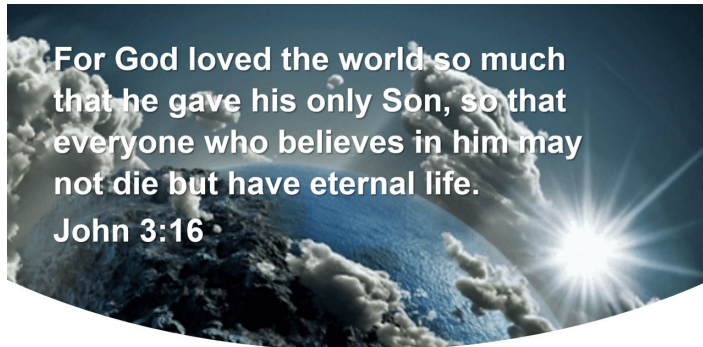
for help. Then in the books of Samuel
the love of God for his people.

Linda led us in a time of prayer first for those caring for us, perhaps you could pray at home for our NHS, care workers and those front line staff.



The continued love that God showed to His people throughout the Old Testament didn't stop when the Old Testament ended.

That love came in a big way to earth in the birth of Jesus, and we are reminded time and again throughout the New Testament about the love God had shown and continued to show and continues still to show to his people. John 3:16



For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

Is a reminder of that great love.

As well as the ending to Romans chapter 8

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Then Stacey interrupted again, so Lacey explained what that means in that there is nothing at all, absolutely nothing that can separate us from God's love through Jesus.

God is our constant He is the continuity for us all.

The one thing that Sarah and I have noticed in all of this is the renewed sense of community, people pulling together and doing things (albeit at a distance) And we as Christians can be a major part of that. Once the present situation is over there will be a number of people whose lives have been turned upside down and we as the church, we as Christians must be the watchers on the towers looking out to who we can help.

So in the ups and downs of this present time please remember that God is our constant and His love for us is ever present.

God of love and light,
In this time of fear, give us your peace
In this time of isolation, give us your presence.
In this time of sickness, give us your healing.
In this time of uncertainty, give us your wisdom
In this time of darkness
shine your light upon us all
In Jesus' name Amen