

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3 ESV

“Behold, Our God... GRACIOUS”



**BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH**

# Worship Service

Sunday, 7 June, 2020

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**Morning Worship Live Stream - 11:00am**



<https://www.youtube.com/user/bereanbarbados/live>



<https://www.facebook.com/BereanBarbados/live>

**Midweek Bible Study (Wednesday)**

**12:00 pm & 7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided**



**WhatsApp 845 - 5752**

**Tel: 426 - 4707**

**email: [info@bereanbarbados.org](mailto:info@bereanbarbados.org)**

**WE ARE GRADUALLY REOPENING. WE'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED.  
IN THE INTERIM YOU CAN JOIN US ONLINE AT:**

**[www.bereanbarbados.org](http://www.bereanbarbados.org)**

# Church, Don't Let Coronavirus Divide You

For church leaders and elder boards everywhere, the last few months have presented a near-constant array of complex challenges related to shepherding a church during the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest complex challenge is perhaps the trickiest yet: how to prudently resume in-person gatherings.

As if the logistical details weren't challenging enough—how to maintain social distance and limit crowd size, whether or not to require masks, to sing or not to sing, what to do with children, and so on—the whole conversation is fraught with potential for division. If a congregation—and within it, a leadership team—is at all a microcosm of our larger society, it will likely contain a broad assortment of strongly held convictions. Some will be eager to meet in person and impatient to wait much longer to get back to normal. Others will insist it's unwise to meet at all until there's a vaccine. Plenty will fall somewhere in between.

In such a precarious and polarizing environment, how can churches move forward in beautiful unity (Ps. 133) rather than ugly division? It won't be easy. But by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit working to unify us in ways our flesh resists, the opportunity is there for us to be a countercultural model for the rest of the world.

## Countercultural Sacrifice

At a time when self-idolatry is being exposed in ugly ways, the church has an opportunity to model love that places the interests of others above the self. For example, someone might find it personally difficult—even maddening—to have to wear a mask during church and stay six feet away from everyone at all times. You might think these precautions are a needless overreaction. But here's the thing: *even if it turns out you're right*, can you not sacrifice your ideal for a season, out of love for others who believe the precautions are necessary? Even if you personally think it is silly, or even cowardly, for someone to stay home even after the church is open again on Sundays, can you not heed Paul's wisdom in Romans 14: "Let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother"? Or 1 Corinthians 8:9: "Be careful, however, that your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak."

Likewise, those who think the lockdowns should continue should not pass judgment on those who question the wisdom of the government's ongoing restrictions. Churches should strive to honor people on both sides of the spectrum. Yes, it will be costly for churches to keep offering online services for those who don't feel comfortable attending physical gatherings. Yes, it will be a sacrifice for church members who are sick of

masks, social distancing, and Zoom to continue to use these for the sake of others. But little is more Christian than a posture of sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). We should embrace it with gladness.

## **Countercultural Humility**

Have you noticed how remarkably *confident* so many of us are in our views right now? Unfounded certainty—on the part of laypeople, leaders, modelers, and “experts” alike—is a contagion at least as viral as COVID-19 itself. We could all use a bit more humility, and the church should lead the way.

As much as ever before, Christians should follow the advice of James to be “quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” (1:19). Listening well may slow down the process of deliberation and planning, but it is worth it. Whatever opinions church leaders themselves have on the matter of reopening, they should take time to humbly hear the voices of others—perhaps convening forums of various stakeholders within the church, as well as other church and government leaders in their area. Church members should likewise model Christlike humility (e.g., Phil. 2:3) in how they react to the plans outlined by leaders, even if they don’t agree with every aspect of it. No one of us should assume we’ve arrived at the definitive answer on how to do this well. Let’s model humility by acknowledging that everything is not obvious, and we are all just trying to do the best we can in this “build the plane in midair” moment.

## **Countercultural Patience**

Patience is one of the rarest virtues in today’s insta-everything world. And yet patience has rarely been more needed, as many of us are antsy to break free of “stay home” isolation and get back to normalcy as soon as possible. To be sure, it is good and right to be eager to gather again as churches. We should take Hebrews 10:25 seriously when it says we ought not neglect meeting together. We should feel the ache of what is lost when we only meet virtually, and every Christian should long for the day when “church on Zoom” gives way to “church in a room.” That day will come. But we should be careful to not rush it. We should be careful to not go faster than governments allow, or faster than those in our community can understand. We should be patient with a timeline that might be slower than we’d prefer; patient with a reopening process that will doubtless be clunky; patient with leaders feeling the pressure of this complex situation; and patient with one another as we figure out the new normal. Those who are not comfortable with physical gatherings should be patient with those who are, and vice versa. As hard as it will be to practice patience, remember that in the scheme of eternity this season—whether it’s months long or years—will be but a blip.

# Order of Service

June 7, 2020, 11:00 am

1. Welcome
2. Opening Prayer
3. Hymn 192 One Day
4. Bible Reading: John 4:7-15
5. Hymn 69 O How I Love Jesus
8. Hymn 184 - Hallelujah What A Saviour
10. Sermon: John 4:1-45
11. Closing Prayer
12. Hymn 175 - There is a Fountain
13. Benediction



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## PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- **Give God thanks that we can meet again as a body of Believers.**
- Our youth sitting the 11 plus examination.
- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- For continued good health and prevention of the spread of COVID-19
- For our members impacted by loss of income and provision for the needy
- Pray for the ministry of Pastor Paul Garnes, as well as for his family
- Pray for the care of our elderly and shut-ins
- Pray for those who are in grief over the loss of relatives
- Pray for the guidance of the Government as they navigate this crisis.
- For the economic recovery of our country Barbados
- For the peace of Jerusalem

**Your can add your PRAYER REQUEST by clicking on the link below:**

<https://www.bereanbarbados.org/prayer-request/>

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## June Birthdays

3rd - Wendene Wells	15th- Erleen Whitehall	25th - Lorna Ward
4th - Annette Dascent	16th - Evertuis Bispham	27th - Richard James
6th - Owen Thompson	19th - Mildred Savoury	28th - Shurley Reece
7th - Josiah Williams	23rd- Kingsley Reece	29th - Michael Jones
8th - Deborah Gonsalves-King	- Janet Walton	- Deanne McCallister
14th- Connie Whittaker	24th- Velda Jones	30th- May Pilgrim

## Anniversaries

4th - Dolores & Harold Codrington      25th - Steve & Cheryl Brewster