

² Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Psalms 96:2 NIV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service & Communion

Sunday, 5 July, 2020


Morning Worship Live Stream - 11:00am

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

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

Midweek Bible Study (Wednesday)

7:30 pm | ZOOM links provided

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10 Reasons to Come Back to Church after COVID-19

Why Meet in Person?

Over the past few months, most churches have stopped meeting in person. A global pandemic, government regulations, and a desire to serve each other and society have kept us from gathering. Instead, we've held "services" online, met "virtually," and used technology to connect.

Many churches are now resuming our meetings, or will soon. But these new services feel strange. Our sensitivities are heightened, our differences are on display, and we have to endure restrictions and protocols that are awkward, inconvenient, and frustrating. Then, no matter how safe we make it, some of our church family still can't come.

With all this in mind, some believers may feel tempted not to come at all. If our restored gatherings are so different and restricted, our online options so available and convenient, and our physical presence a genuine vulnerability, why should we even meet in person?

This is a valid question. But before we make our decisions, we need to reflect on the importance of our gatherings so that our desire to meet grows instead of atrophying.

So unless you're someone who needs to stay home for health reasons, here are ten reasons to come back to church.

1. We're embodied creatures.

God made Adam from earth's soil, Eve from Adam's side, and humanity from their union (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:18-25; 3:20). We're embodied souls, male and female, in His image.

2. The church is one body.

The Bible consistently teaches that the church is Christ's body on earth (Eph. 1:22-23). Each believer is a different body part, but we're intricately knitted together (Eph. 4:15-16). We're not independent but interdependent.

3. The Spirit is drawing us.

Not only are believers one body; we also have one Spirit (Eph 4:4). The Holy Spirit—the third person of the Trinity—inhabits God's church, and He's always drawing us toward unity.

4. We're a spiritual family.

In the church, God is our adoptive Father, so we're all spiritual siblings—God's "household" (1 Tim 3:15). With our different ages and genders, Paul even calls

us fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters (1 Tim 5:1-2). But families aren't meant to be separated.

5. Preaching is a sacred moment.

When we hear God's word taught in a congregation, we resonate not only with our risen Lord and his royal word, but with each other. A feast enjoyed together is better than food eaten alone.

6. There's nothing like singing together.

There's no experience on earth like congregational singing (Ps 95:1-2). Singing together glorifies God by re-enthroning him in the hearts of his people.

7. We need baptisms and communion.

Whether your church has practiced these ordinances "virtually" or not, every believer needs to see and taste these gracious symbols so that we can sense the gospel story once again.

8. You have a job to do.

If you're a believer, you have a job to do when the church gathers. The work of ministry isn't mainly for pastors and leaders. It's for every Christian. Every believer has spiritual gifts meant to be used, and every church body desperately needs every body part to be active (Rom 12:4-8; Eph 4:15-16; 1 Pet 4:10-11).

9. Our worship is a witness.

Each week our friends and neighbors and coworkers walk through the same broken world we do, but without our hope and our map. Each week they suffer challenges and tragedies that make them wonder where grace and truth can be found. The unbelieving world also needs to see the gospel's transforming power embodied in a local family of Christians who love God and serve each other in the most gracious and gritty ways.

10. Greetings change lives.

It may seem strange to end with the act of greeting—a simple activity that's become so restricted and complicated. But all over the New Testament, the writers not only greet the churches but ask Christians to greet each other.

Conclusion

You may not be able to return right away. You might need to exercise caution for yourself or those you love. You might need to keep watching from a distance for a while. But when the time is right, God's people can and must gather again, and I hope you'll join in. After all, our gatherings are ultimately a taste of heaven. The Bible's vision of heaven doesn't look like a quarantine, a livestream, or a Zoom call. It's a "face to face" encounter with the risen Christ and a worshipful reunion of both saints and angels (Heb 12:22-23; Rev 22:4).

Order of Service

July 5, 2020, 11:00 am

“O GREAT GOD!”

1. Welcome
2. Opening Prayer
3. Hymn 72 - Fairest Lord Jesus
4. Bible Reading: Psalm 96
5. Song - O Great God
6. Prayer
7. Hymn 818 - Great is Thy Faithfulness
8. Sermon: Rev. Paul Garnes
9. Song for Communion - In Christ Alone
10. Closing Prayer
11. Hymn 840 - What a Day
12. Benediction



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- **Give God thanks that we can meet again for the Lord's supper.**
- Give God thanks for His grace and continual goodness
- Continue to pray for our sick members, friends and relatives.
- Against a COVID-19 resurgence as we reopen our borders
- 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

July Birthdays



1st - Kenmore Maycock	13th - Barry Ward	28th - Chanté James
5th - Marcelle Griffith	15th - Leianne Bovell	- Janice Reece
6th - Cheryl Brewster	22nd- Christopher Ward	29th - Joan Osborne
10th - Valda Foster	25th - Ann Proverbs	
11th - Gwendolyn Spencer	26th - Gaynelle Jemmott	AUGUST
12th - Jocelyn Hoyte	27th - Goldie Spieler	1st - Louise Moore
13th - Norma Thompson	28th - Delano Austin	

July Anniversaries



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| 1st - Kenmore & Carol Maycock | 27th - Lucy & Carl Crichlow |
| 2nd - Owen & Jenny Thompson | |