

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

- Are you easy to get on with? Share one of your less agreeable habits or attributes...

Worship

Psalm 149:1 invites us to sing 'a new song'.

- What are you thankful for? Let everyone share at least three things for which they feel gratitude, with someone making notes.
- Inspired by this, write a short Psalm of thanksgiving together.

Word

Read Ephesians 1: 11 - 14

Paul sketches out an alternative vision of reality! Verses 11 and 12 refer to Paul and his team. Verses 13 - 14 refer to the church Paul was writing to.

- Can you include yourself in the 'YOU' of these verses?
- Have you heard 'the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation'? Is it something you could explain to others?
- What's the purpose of a seal (verse 13)? What does that imply about the significance of God's Spirit in our lives?
- What's the purpose of a deposit (verse 14)? What does that tell us about the experience of God's Spirit in our lives?

Read Ephesians 1: 15 - 23

- Paul launches into a mega-prayer which begins with thanksgiving, as we have practiced thanksgiving today. He moves on in verses 17 to make a request. For what is he asking?
- In verses 18 & 19 Paul asks for enlightened hearts. What three things does he want the Ephesians to know in this light?
- The third thing Paul asked for was the power that comes through belief - or faith. In verses 19 - 21 he explains that God has already used this power to do what things? How does that make you feel?

- In verses 21 - 22, his attention now drawn to Christ, Paul expresses a universal vision of Christ's reign. Who or what is excluded from this vision?

Read Luke 6: 20 - 31

We've considered Paul's alternative vision of reality. Jesus talked of something similar - the coming Kingdom of God.

- Compare and contrast Christ's kingdom with the kingdoms of this world.

Response

- What one step could you take to show what Christ's kingdom is like this week?