

WELLESLEY PARISH CHURCH

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER TOPICS



June 2020

The book of Acts records the ministry of Christ by the Holy Spirit through the lives of his disciples and the beginning of His church. As we begin to come out of lockdown, in this season of Pentecost, and social restrictions are lifted, perhaps we can share some of their experiences on the way.

1st June Acts 1:1-11

In verse 8 Jesus make the mission of the disciples clear. As we enter this new phase in the fight against Covid-19, pray for wisdom for our leaders, that they may provide clear instructions and guidance to us all.

2nd June Acts 1:12-26

The disciples and the women trust God to give them direction in what they are to do and who is chosen. Spend some time today reflecting on how God has led you in the past and for courage to follow Him in the future.

3rd June Acts 2

The gospel message was heard by everyone present at the first Pentecost. Social media has enabled thousands of people to hear church services for the first

time during lockdown. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in their hearts and minds as social restrictions are relaxed.

4th June Acts 3:1-10

Peter gave what he had to the man at the temple gate and his life was transformed. Thank God for the gifts he has given to each of us and ask him to show you how to use them in his service.

5th June Acts 3:11-26

Peter informs the crowd that God has used their lack of knowledge in rejecting Jesus to bring to fulfilment prophecies regarding the Messiah. Pray that as we move out of social isolation the positive experiences and lessons that have been learned will not be lost.

6th June Acts 4:1-22

The religious leaders couldn't stop Peter and John from talking about Jesus, even in the face of danger, or the word spreading for the man had been healed. Pray for the same joy and confidence to share the gospel with others.

7th June Acts 4:23-31

Peter and John returned to the others and they prayed together, not for protection out of fear but for continued strength and boldness. Pray for those who are anxious and struggling after the last few weeks, that they receive assurance and renewed confidence as the days go on.

8th June Acts 4:32-5:16

The community around the disciples shared everything together. Pray for those individuals and businesses who are finding the shutdown very difficult and that the support given by government, banks and other bodies will continue.

9th June Acts 5:17-42

Jesus' followers had one instruction from the religious leaders, another from the angel of the Lord. We too often get mixed messages about who/what to follow. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit to stay on the right path.



10th June Acts 6

Thank God for our church family and for church families everywhere that are not just people who gather on a Sunday but people who commit to caring for one another and their community. Thank God particularly for the new ways that folk have been able to show that care in the last few weeks.

11th June Acts 7:1-53

Stephen was bold and able to articulate his faith clearly. Pray for opportunities to develop and deepen our understanding of our faith and the courage to witness to others.

12th June Acts 7:54-8:3

Thank God for all those throughout history, like Stephen, who have been martyred for their faith and for those around the world today who are still persecuted for what they believe.

13th June Acts 8:4-25

The result of the stoning of Stephen means that the disciples scatter and begin to spread the word further afield. Pray today that those who have been tuning in to television or online services during lockdown will continue to watch and listen and learn more as social restrictions are lifted.

14th June Acts 8:26-40

Philip's experience of the Holy Spirit is incredible! Thank God for the companionship of the Holy Spirit and ask him to increase your awareness of it day by day.

15th June Acts 9:1-31

Thank God for all those, like Ananias here, who have had the courage to share their faith with you over the years – family, friends, neighbours, Sunday School teachers etc. Pray for courage to do the same often to the people you least expect.

16th June Acts 9:32-43

Today we read of two healings. Pray today for all those who have suffered in the last few weeks, who continue with treatment, who are recovering from the virus or who have lost loved ones asking for healing in body and in spirit, bringing your peace.

17th June Acts 10

Thank God for the example of Peter who we have seen grow from impetuous and outspoken disciple to well-known and respected leader. Here he shows his humility, accepting a fresh kind of understanding from God.

18th June Acts 11:1-18

Like the apostles it's so easy for our first reaction to be negative. As we look forward to the coming months and a different way of doing things, pray that we may be open minded to new possibilities and fresh ideas.

19th June Acts 11:19-30

Though there was persecution and suffering, the gospel continued to

spread. Sometimes, we cannot understand why such suffering in the lives of Your children, pray today for trust in God's promise that He will never leave us or forsake us.

20th June Acts 12

Reflect on the times in your lives when you have known answers to prayer and thank God for them.

21st June Acts 13:1-12

Now, with Paul, the gospel message continues to spread but as we have seen before, there is opposition. Thank God that these examples encourage us not to lose heart and be discouraged. Pray that as we work through the various relaxation phases of social restrictions we may continue to rely on God.

22nd June Acts 13:13-52

Praise God that you and I have been given the incredible privilege of living on this side of the cross and the empty tomb and understand the salvation that God has accomplished through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus surpasses all that came before.

23rd June Acts 14:1-18

The people, perhaps understandably but mistakenly, think Paul and Barnabas are Gods. Pray today for discernment, not to be tempted by so many other things that can grab our attention and funds.

24th June Acts 14:19-28

Paul and Barnabas show great perseverance in the face of opposition. Pray today for resolution and patience to endure the weeks as the restrictions are slowly lifted, even if they are slower than expected, remembering that the long term goal is the welfare of everyone.

25th June Acts 15

This chapter is one of the most important debates in the New Testament Church. Pray today for our leaders and the experts who advise them that they would have wisdom to make the correct choices, and the ability to communicate those decisions clearly.

26th June Acts 16:1-15

Perhaps unexpectedly, Paul witnesses to the women outside the city gate, but in Lydia he finds a powerful supporter. Thank God for all the unexpected support and acts of kindness that we have all experienced in the last few weeks.

27th June Acts 16:16-40

Paul and Silas spend a night in jail but utilise the time for prayer and praise. Many people during this crisis have responded in prayer. Though things are improving, let's continue to pray for our key workers whose commitment and dedication have been so central to the success of the government's plans.

28th June Acts 17:1-9

Thank God that we live in a country where the church is free from state interference and for the way in which, in recent weeks, local authorities, funeral directors and the church have worked together to continue to provide funeral services (through severely restricted) for grieving families. Pray that we may continue to support people through these difficult and distressing circumstances.

29th June Acts 17:10-15

The society we live in today has a fear of failure and we all want our plans and projects to be successful. Pray today that we may be more like the early apostles who accepted rejection and simply moved on, sure in the knowledge that they were doing God's will.

30th June Acts 17:16-34

During Covid-19 our inability to meet together has stripped away all the trappings of church buildings and church life, praise God for the radical, life changing news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ which remains!

