

PRAYER | MATTERS

BLUNTISHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to our online service this morning and may I wish you all a Happy New Year on behalf of the church. I hope that despite difficult circumstances you were able to enjoy Christmas as we gave thanks for the birth of Christ. As we close the door on 2020 and begin this new chapter of our lives that is 2021 we continue to stand again on God's sure and solid promises. In the midst of our difficulties and ongoing uncertainty, we commit to bringing everything to the Lord in prayer. With patient hearts we give thanks for his unfaltering faithfulness and our hope is secured in God's unending love and abounding joy.

Our verse of the year for 2021 is taken from the book of Romans which we have studied throughout the trials of 2020. It is Romans Chapter 12 verse 12, now that's going to be easy to memorise! It's a verse that fully encapsulates our faithful resolve in the Lord for the year ahead: Be **JOYFUL** *in hope*, **PATIENT** *in affliction* and **FAITHFUL** *in prayer*.

Today sees us embark on a new teaching and preaching series as we start 2021. For the next few weeks we are going to be exploring the topic of Prayer, through a series called 'Prayer Matters'. So why a series on Prayer you might ask? Well with the possibility of global concerns being even greater over winter than they were earlier in 2020, I felt it was important that we called the church to a time of greater focus on prayer and praying. Spurgeon said of prayer that it is, the 'engine room of the church.' We want to step into the new year with this series in 'Prayer Matters' because prayer matters! It really, really matters! To pray is the most powerful thing you can ever do. This is because prayer connects you to God, the most powerful thing there is! Prayer is an amazing intimate two-way conversation between us and God. The overflow of the heart in the presence of God. Prayer is a topic we probably know a great deal about or something that we do regularly. However, whether we became a Christian last week or 80 years ago, all of us have more to learn when it comes to prayer. All of us can experience deeper intimacy with God in our prayer life. All of us could more readily bring things to the Lord in prayer than we currently do.

Each Sunday there will be some really helpful resources to accompany the specific topic on prayer that we will be exploring. The first four of these resources around why we pray and how we pray are attached to this email.

Here's the link to this weeks online service video:

<http://bluntishambaptist.org/index.php/Ministries/virtual-church>

And don't forget to join us for After Church coffee in one of our Zoom rooms at 11.45am.

Every blessing,



Be **JOYFUL** *in hope* - Be **PATIENT** *in affliction* - Be **FAITHFUL** *in prayer* Romans 12:12