**Emmanuel Service**

**28.2.21**

**Service Order:**

Welcome and CFN

Song: Who Is This Man?

All Age Slot – The Apostles' Creed: On the third day He rose again

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers: Cara Rodger

Bible Reading: Hebrews 11:13-16

Sermon: Bart

Song: There is a hope

Closing Prayer

**Sermon Notes:**

**The Faith Honours List**

**Hebrews 11v13-16**

Where is your home?

* This passage challenges to ask whether we are making our home in this world or in the one to come.
* We look again at the Faith Honours List in Hebrews 11 and in our verses for today the focus is still on the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – you can read about them in Genesis).
* We are going to learn 3 lessons from them…

**1. We have not yet received the things promised. v13**

What was promised to the Patriarchs?

* We saw the answer to that last week – land and countless descendants
* But none of them received these promises in their lifetimes
	+ By the end of Genesis Jacob has 12 sons (not exactly countless!) and they are living in Egypt (not the promised land)
	+ So each died in faith trusting that the Lord would fulfil His promises

We need to learn from them because we too have not yet received the things promised.

* There is a lot we have received if we are followers of Jesus: forgiveness, becoming children of God etc
* But there is much we have not yet received.
* For instance…

***Ourselves:***

* Our bodies – we are promised glorious resurrection bodies, but our current bodies are weak, prone to illness, aging and death.
* Our relationship with the Lord – though wonderful it is not what it will be when we will ‘know even as I am fully known’ (1Cor 13:12)
* Our battle between the Spirit and our sinful nature – one day we will sin no more, but not yet.

***The World:***

* The Christian hope is not just individual but is that the whole creation will be ‘liberated from its bondage to decay’- but we aren’t there yet, we still see illness, evil, climate change and so on.

So Romans 8 says our current experience is one of groaning – that we don’t yet have all that has been promised.

* Like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob we die in faith, seeing and welcoming these promises from a distance

**2. We are strangers in the world. V13-15**

* Abraham in Genesis 23:4 describes himself as an ‘alien and stranger’. He had been told by God to leave his home (start of Gen 12). The point Hebrews is making is that if he had been thinking of that homeland he had left, he could have returned, but he didn’t.
* The writer tells us Abraham was saying he was a stranger ‘on earth’.
* That is true for us too – 1Peter 1:1 ‘To God’s elect, strangers in the world.’

Do you see yourself as a stranger in this world?

* Our temptation is to make this world our home – it’s what everyone around us is doing.
* But it is good that this world is not our home since the things of this world are temporary and fleeting

So don’t build your home here

* Investing in this world is like a traveller packing, planning and spending money mainly for what it will be like in the airport.
* This world is not your home – what difference does that make to the way you think about this life?

**3. Long for the heavenly country. v16**

We are told that the Patriarchs longed for the heavenly country – not for the land in the middle east they were promised, their sights were set higher.

* Notice the verb used – they were ‘longing’
* A deep yearning for the heavenly country – do you long for it?
	+ Maybe you feel you don’t but I think it is just a case of joining the dots…

Christian, when you groan at yourself and at this world it is really a longing for the future world

* So when you groan that your body is not what you would like it to be, turn it into longing for the future body Jesus promises to his followers
* When you groan at your sin, turn it into longing for the time when you will sin no more
* When you see the world in chaos with war, diseases and environmental crises turn it into a longing for the heavenly country.

How can we know the heavenly country will be a reality?

* We have seen a foretaste when the King of that country came and lived among us.
* Look at Jesus’ life – he healed the sick, calmed the storm and raised the dead.
* And Jesus died so that those who turn to him could be forgiven.
* He rose to life so we could share his resurrection life in that heavenly country.

So keep your eyes fixed on that King, on Jesus, and imitate these heroes of the faith

* We have not yet received the things promised
* We are strangers in the world
* Long for the heavenly country