

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday 11th August 2019

**Speak, Lord, in the stillness, while we wait on thee
Hushed our hearts to listen in expectancy.**

**Speak, O Blessed Master, in this quiet hour;
Let us see thy face Lord, feel thy touch of power.**

Emily May Grimes 1868-1927

Greeting:

Good Morning.

A warm welcome to you all
especially those who are here for the first time
or returning after an absence.

Your presence enriches all of us in this time of celebration together.

Our church is a safe place for all people to worship
regardless of race, creed, cultural background or sexual identity.

The peace of the Lord be with you all

And also with you

Call to Worship:

This reading from Isaiah is a challenge to us all as we come to worship
and as we live our life.

I've chosen to read it from the version called 'The Message'
because it adds a contemporary edge.

Reading: Isaiah 1:12-20

When you come before me,
whoever gave you the idea of acting like you do,
Running here and there, doing this and that—
all this sheer commotion in the place provided for worship?
“Quit your worship charades.

I can't stand your trivial religious games:
Monthly conferences, weekly Sabbaths, special meetings—
meetings, meetings, meetings—I can't stand one more!
Meetings for this, meetings for that. I hate them!

You've worn me out!
I'm sick of your religion, religion, religion,
while you go right on sinning.
When you put on your next prayer-performance,
I'll be looking the other way.

No matter how long or loud or often you pray,
I'll not be listening.
And do you know why? Because you've been tearing
people to pieces, and your hands are bloody.
Go home and wash up.
Clean up your act.
Sweep your lives clean of your evildoings
so I don't have to look at them any longer.
Say no to wrong.
Learn to do good.
Work for justice.
Help the down-and-out.
Stand up for the homeless.
Go in to bat for the defenceless.

As a response let's read this section of Psalm 50 together.

Reading: Psalm 50:1-6 (NRSV)

**The mighty one, God the Lord,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.
Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
"Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge.**

PRAYER:

Holy God,
Even your harshest judgements
are a sign of your great love for the world
and your desire for people to live with justice and peace.
Your love never ends. As the sun rises every day
so your love is renewed in us. Great is your faithfulness

HYMN: TIS 154

**Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father;
in you no shadow of turning we see,
you never fail and your love is unchanging,
as you have been, you forever wilt be.**

Refrain

***Great is your faithfulness!
Great is your faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies we see;
All we have needed your hand has provided
Great is your faithfulness, Lord God to me!***

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
join with all nature in unspoken witness,
to your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

Refrain

**Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
your living presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
these are the blessings your love will provide.**

Refrain

*Words-Thomas O Chisholm,
Music- William M Runyan*

PRAYER:

Loving God, we are glad to honour you with our songs of praise.

You have given us plenty to be glad about,

in the beauty of creation,

in the support we find through human friendship,

in the gifts and abilities we have,

and above all, in Jesus and all he has done for us.

Grant us to know the things that are worth knowing,

to love all that is worth loving,

to praise all that is good,

to reject all that is unworthy,

to prize all that is precious to you

and to search for your holy will and purpose.

Forgive us when we praise you with our lips
and then dishonour you with our thoughts, words and actions,
**when we praise your goodness
and then complain about the little things that go wrong,
or when we praise you for the beauty of the world
and then mess it up with our thoughtlessness.**

God, you have promised to forgive us.
Help us accept your forgiveness,
and to be renewed by it, for Jesus sake.

Reflection time

Introduction to Bible Readings:

READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 (NRSV)

11¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

11⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40 (NRSV)

12³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

HYMN: “God’s great call” (Tune AHB 205 ii)

**God’s great call to faith’s adventuring
was clear in Abram’s day
with the risk and joy and blessing
he discovered on that way.
It brought freedom under Moses
when he broke the Pharaoh’s sway
and life began anew!**

***All who follow that succession
all who make the great confession
all who live its full expression
God frees and makes them new.***

**When the leaders and the prophets
heard the voice of God within
when they struggled and they suffered
with a stubborn people’s sin.
They endured the times of exile
till rebuilding could begin
and life was found anew!**

All who follow that succession

That's the truth for every person
that's the truth for you and me.
That in trusting and obeying him
he sets our spirits free.

Let us all rejoice to live in Christ
and share his liberty
and make his world anew.

*All who follow that succession
all who make the great confession
all who live its full expression
God frees and makes them new.*

Richard G Jones, Songs for New Beginnings JBCE 1975

SERMON:

HYMN: atok 313

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others.
shared until all are fed.

Refrain

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone.**

Refrain

**Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Refrain

Words & Music by Bernadette Farrell

OFFERING

God, bless the offerings we bring today,
and all that we offer each day.

Sharing joys and concerns

Prayers of intercession

God, you call us
all that fears conflict and is paralysed by that fear.

We ask this in the name of Jesus with whom we pray

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN: TIS 659

**The Lord is my shepherd
and I want to follow
wherever he leads me
wherever he goes.
Over the mountains
the waters and byways
valleys and highways
he's waiting for me.**

Refrain

*I want to go to meet him there
to lay myself down in his love.
The Lord is my shepherd and I want to follow
wherever he leads me, wherever he goes.*

And while on the journey
to where we are going
he promised to be there
to help us along
and over the mountains
we walk on together
to know all the wonders
he's given to me.

Refrain

Brian Kerry Boniwell 1949–

BENEDICTION:

As we go from here, be assured
that the love of God, the peace of God, the strength of God
will bless you each day. **Amen**

HYMN: TIS 778

Shalom to you now,
shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies
bless you, my friends.
In all your living
and through your loving,
Christ be your Shalom,
Christ be your shalom.

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942–