

HWEC Morning Service 26 July 2020

Call to worship Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. 6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, LORD, preserve both people and animals. 7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. 8 They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. 9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. 10 Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. (Ps. 36:5-10 NIV)

Hymn Almighty God we bring you praises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEqagG-gbvY>

Prayer of Invocation

O Lord, we magnify you, we rejoice in you, O God our Saviour! You have regarded the low estate of your people, the Church in every age! You have done great things for us, and holy is your name, O mighty God! Remember your mercy to us in the name of Jesus Christ, for in Him we plead the new and eternal covenant; for in him the promises made to Abraham have been fulfilled. Remember your covenant once again, as you have from generation to generation. For yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Father, ever blest, Son, ever praised, Holy Spirit, ever adored, One God now and always. Amen

Call to Confession

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (Isa. 1:18 NIV)

Responding to this command let us confess our sins to God

Confession of sin

For you, O God, we long. For you our souls Thirst, O ever living God. You are our life and the source of all life. Oh, that we might see your face and live. Yet our sins which our many have robbed us of joy, of the sense of your presence. Lord forgive this terrible thing that we are and the terrible things we have thought, said and done.

Our souls are disturbed, we doubt, we become discouraged, we run from your word, and yet you pursue us and cause us to have hope in you.

We remember those times when we sensed your presence. We remember the joy of being in your sanctuary. Our hope is in you, that again we might praise you. O God strengthen our hope, feed us on your word, and increase our faith and restore to us the joy of salvation for Christ the Saviour's sake. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. (Acts 13:38 NIV) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Eph. 1:7 NIV)

Hymn Beauty for Brokenness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D81ZD1NDPyE>

Announcements

Prayer for illumination

Blessed you are, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of glory. Blessed you are, eternal God, source of wisdom and knowledge. Give us the spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know what is the hope to which we have been called. Reveal yourself to us, for we can only know you if you give yourself to be known, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bible Reading

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. 5 But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. 6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 7 Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. 8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 9 No one who is born of God

will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. 10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister. (1 Jn. 3:4-10 NIV)

Intercessory Prayer

Lord our God we thank You that You are the Great Comforter, coming alongside Your people to comfort us in our time of trouble. You comfort us through our families. We thank You that You have placed us in families so that when we suffer emotionally, physically or spiritually that there are family friends to support and encourage. When things go wrong within families, we thank You that You draw alongside to help us. Lord we pray for families. We realise through this time of lockdown how precious they are to us. We thank You for the opportunities that we have had to meet up with family we haven't seen for weeks. We are also glad that this lockdown has made us think about the wider family circle that we haven't met face to face for years. Lord bless are wider family circle. We pray for brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, cousins, uncles and aunts that are still outside of Christ. We think of some whose lives have been made very difficult through addiction of one form or other. Lord in mercy draw near and show grace and mercy to those in need.

We thank You that You have placed us in the family of the church. Lord when we suffer we thank You that we have brothers and sisters in Christ who will pray for us. Lord help us to be thoughtful and to remember before You in prayer those who are in need. Some suffer from chronic ill-health and others have acute episodes, we pray for those who have been under doctor's care for a long period and are still uncertain of the cause of some ill-health. Lord be with them and be pleased to heal Your people.

As a church family we also suffer spiritually. Some fail to grow spiritually at a healthy rate, others are going backwards in their faith, some struggle to make sense of the circumstances in their lives. Lord we thank You that You care for all of us. No issue can be considered too small for You because all issues are small to You, therefore we can come and bring all matters before You in prayer. Lord we struggle with our witnessing. Help us to locate people to share with them the Gospel and grant us success in the Gospel so that we might see souls won for Christ.

We suffer in our nation, because laws are too liberal. We suffer because the Christian voice is silenced. We pray for groups like The Christian Institute who endeavour to have the Christian voice heard. Bless them in the pamphlets that they publish, in the legal support that they give to Christians being persecuted for their faith.

Lord we do not always understand the reason for suffering yet Lord we pray that You will help us to trust You when things are not clear, because we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn O the deep, deep love of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTsNCPsI35E>

Sermon

Hymn Be Still my Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqgC1tqifV8>

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore. Amen.