

HWEC Morning Service 23 August 2020

Call to worship Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul. 2 I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Ps. 146:1-2 NIV)

Hymn O God beyond all praising

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3R7ynobWQU>

Prayer of Invocation

O Lord our Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit you have made us for yourself and our hearts our restless until we find our rest in you. We thank You that we have found that rest in Jesus Christ. We can come before you into your presence because we experience the peace of God in our hearts. We stand before you arrayed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Lord we thank you for your grace and mercy towards us. Your unmerited favour was shown to us when we were far away from you. We had no desire for you, but you sought us, we had nothing to offer but you bought us with the precious blood of Christ. You have translated us from the Kingdom of darkness in the kingdom of your dear Son. Lord we praise you and we rejoice in the God of our salvation.

As you have called us to worship this morning so out of the abundance of the riches of heaven enable us by your Holy Spirit to taste and see that the Lord is good. Enable us by your Holy Spirit, move our hearts to rejoice, touch our lips that we might sing you praise because you have done marvellous things for us and have made us glad. Come and inhabit the praises of your people for Christ the Saviour's sake, in whose name we pray. Amen

Call to Confession

Our Lord Jesus said:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

As God has instructed us in these great commandments, and because we have not lived in full obedience, let us now confess our sins to God, trusting Christ as our Saviour and Lord. Let us bow again as I lead the congregation in confession of sins

Confession of sin

Almighty and merciful God forgive us for cold hearts that refuse to be warmed by the message of the Gospel. Forgive us for closed ears that refuse to listen to the call to return to you. Forgive us for minds that we have not trained to notice, your encouragement, your rebuke, your instruction and your call for us to return to you. Forgive us for defining ourselves by our circumstances rather than embracing who you have made us in Christ. Forgive us for not facing the reality of our barren hearts. Lord in mercy forgive what we have allowed ourselves to become and in mercy receive us back under the shadow of your wing and let your face be turned toward us again and bless our days, for Christ the Saviour's sake. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.²
 Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. (Ps. 32:1-2 NIV)

Catechism Gerald at 11am via Skype

Hymn 1155 There is a higher throne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvDSG4s5FJw>

Announcements

Prayer for illumination

Heavenly Father, thank You for the reminder in 1 John, that no-one is outside Your offer of salvation, and that no matter how far we have strayed away from Your loving arms, You are ready and willing to bring us back into fellowship with Yourself. We praise and thank You that no one is beyond redemption and no matter how far we have strayed You are ready and willing to open Your arms of love to the prodigal. Help us to embrace all that you say to us through this letter. Thank You for Your goodness and grace and pray that many who have wandered far from You would find their hope in Jesus – in Whose name we pray, AMEN.

Bible Reading

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. (1 Jn. 4:13-16 NIV)

Intercessory Prayer

O Lord God, Creator above us, Spirit within us, Lord ahead of us, open us to yourself, that we may become transparent to ourselves. Make us masters of ourselves, that we may be the servants of others. In the name of Jesus Christ, we bless you for the gift of our lives. We bless you for the invisible fibres of loyalty and trust that bind us to the people we love and care for, for fidelity in our marriages, for care and love for our children, for the gifts you've allowed us to discover within ourselves, and for the gifts other people have given us by giving of themselves. We bless you for useful jobs to do, for leisure to enjoy, for fun to have, for homes to live in, for bodies to touch, for love to share. We pray to you for our friends and the people we care about, for people who feel that their life has somehow become boring and lacking in lustre, whose marriages have lost their tenderness, whose health is poor, whose hope for the years ahead is dim, and whose death is near.

We pray for peace. Let all who think lightly of making war be converted to think strongly of making peace. We pray for people for whom today is another day of trying to find something to eat, for people in our world for whom today is another day lived under the yoke of oppression, for people who have no friends and are desperately lonely, for people who have lost somebody so close to them that they are almost dying with grief, and for people today who are dying. O Spirit of Christ, give us a joy that outlasts our sorrows, give us a hope stronger than the despair of our discouragement, and give us a new belief that we have reason to rejoice— to be glad for who we are because you made us and gave us life, and all we have is a gift from you.

Lord, we cannot imagine why You have allowed the Pandemic to strike this world so badly. We in the West have enjoyed many decades of living without the threat of death looming over us, each day. Many of the deadly diseases have been brought under control. Yet Lord in many places across the world life expectancy is very short and they live with death as a reality. Lord forgive our complacency. You have blessed this country, yet we have forgotten You and took pride in our own achievements. We have forgotten that every good comes from Your hand. Lord God have mercy upon us, forgive our neglect of gratitude, forgive our failure to return to You our thanks. Lord in mercy as swiftly as the virus has spread, so swiftly come and remove this from our world. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, who taught us to pray

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come
 your will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our debts, as we also
 have forgiven our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from the evil one,
 for yours is the kingdom and the
 power and the glory for ever.
 Amen.

Hymn 1232 In Christ alone my hope is found

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91VuGOADc_w

Sermon

Hymn There's a sound on the wind like a victory song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxJO893biy4>

Benediction

Verses relating to the Deity of Christ

(1) John 1:1 (NIV) *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

(2) John 1:18 (NIV) *No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*

John 1:18 (NASB) *No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained [Him.]*

(3) John 20:28 (NIV) *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

(4) Acts 20:28 (NIV) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

(5) Romans 9:5 (NIV) Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

(6) Titus 2:13 (NIV) while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

(7) Hebrews 1:8 (NIV) But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,

and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions

by anointing you with the oil of joy."

(8) 2Pet 1:1 (NIV) Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

(9) 1Joh 5:20 (NIV) We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true--even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.