

## Lord's Day worship: Sunday 26 April 2020

### Before we join together: two hymns to sing – to help us prepare

- (1) "Jesus loves me this I know" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o12C8fWzER0>
- (2) "How deep the Father's love for us" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzQj7XvKFmA>

### At 10.45am: Welcome and notices

### Scriptural call to worship, and prayer for God's presence and blessing

*This Sunday we begin reading together the Lord's Word in Psalm 145:8-9*

"The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made."

*We pray together:*

Almighty God,  
to whom our hearts are open,  
our desires are known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the gracious power of Your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love You  
and worthily magnify Your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

*We listen these words from 1 John 1:8-9*

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

*Together we confess our sins:*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all people,  
we acknowledge and lament our many sins,  
and the wickedness we have committed  
time after time, by thought, word and deed  
against your divine majesty.  
We have provoked your righteous anger  
and your indignation against us.  
We earnestly repent,  
and are deeply sorry for these our wrongdoings;  
the memory of them weighs us down,  
the burden of them is too great for us to bear.  
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that from this time forward  
we may always serve and please you in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*We read the words of Psalm 103:8-12 and then remember our assurance of forgiveness using words from the Heidelberg Catechism.*

“The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

#### **How are you right with God?**

Only by true faith in Jesus Christ.  
Even though my conscience accuses me  
of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments  
and of never having kept any of them,  
and even though I am still inclined toward all evil,  
nevertheless – without my deserving it at all,  
out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me  
the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ,  
as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner,  
as if I had been as perfectly obedient  
as Christ was obedient for me.  
All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

### **Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 7**

*Psalm 7 is a song of praise to God – for he is the refuge of the righteous, and he brings an end to the guilty. There is hope for the guilty too, in verse 12 – for they can repent, turn to the LORD, and find safety instead of destruction.*

### **Prayers of intercession**

*Today we pray for: (i) the sick, lonely, and anxious among us; (ii) that many would be moved to repent by the current world circumstance; (iii) for our mission partners.*

### **Bible reading and Sermon – Matthew 20:1-16**

### **Singing in response to God’s Word**

“There is a fountain filled with blood”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xEAgLV-P5E>

### **God’s call to serve Him & the promise of His blessing**

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1)

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen (Hebrews 13:20-21)