

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 3rd May 2020

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

- (1) "Turn your eyes upon Jesus" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2tKVqZZil4>
- (2) "Be Thou my vision" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baya6pxK1us>

At 10.45am: Welcome and notices

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

This Sunday we begin by hearing God's word from Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

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 Timothy 1:15

This saying is true and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Together we confess our sins:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

We pray in thanksgiving for the forgiveness of sins, and then remember our assurance using words from the New City Catechism.

Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?

Since death is the punishment for sin, Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God. By his substitutionary atoning death, he alone redeems us from hell and gains for us forgiveness of sin, righteousness, and everlasting life.

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God graciously imputes Christ's righteousness to us as if it were our own and will remember our sins no more.

An Introduction to Rob Hudson

Rob is the vicar of St Peter's Church, Harold Wood, and the chair of Immanuel's council of reference. He will be preaching for us this morning.

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 8

Psalm 8 begins and ends with God's majesty, and between, reflects on the privileged place God has given humanity in his creation. These same verses are referred to in Hebrews, to speak of Jesus's condescension – that he was made like man, lower than the angels, that he might serve us with his death.

Prayers of intercession, including the Lord's Prayer

Today we pray for: (i) St Peter's Church and other local partner churches; (ii) the leadership of Immanuel Brentwood; (iii) for church family needs.

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Bible reading and Sermon – Matthew 20:17-34

Singing in response to God's Word

"I once was lost in darkest night": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugGucoYMmKg>

Scripture and closing prayer

"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:26b-28)