

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 7th June 2020

Before we join together: to help us prepare sing a hymn & a children's song

(1) "When I fear my faith will fail"

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BP0dtwXWQ_M

(2) "Just the way God wanted us to be"

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aheyndtH-KE&list=PLYdnaVTk3ydFa9Loflp6q0z4oNOrNZSEm&index=3>

At 10.45am: Welcome and notices

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

We read together (from Revelation 1:4-7):

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

God's Law, confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

Jesus summarises God's Law for us (Matthew 22:27-40):

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Together we confess our sins (from Psalm 51):

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Declaring our faith together: who is our “Mediator”?

This extract from the Heidelberg Catechism teaches us about our “Mediator”, the Lord Jesus Christ – the one who enables us to draw near to our Father in heaven.

Q. Why must our Mediator be a true and righteous man?

A. He must be a true man because the justice of God requires that the same human nature which has sinned should pay for sin. He must be a righteous man because one who himself is a sinner cannot pay for others.

Q. Why must he at the same time be true God?

A. He must be true God so that by the power of his divine nature he might bear in his human nature the burden of God’s wrath, and might obtain for us and restore to us righteousness and life.

Q. But who is that Mediator who at the same time is true God and a true and righteous man?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor 1:30).

Q. From where do you know this?

A. From the holy gospel, which God himself first revealed in Paradise. Later, he had it proclaimed by the patriarchs and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law. Finally, he had it fulfilled through his only Son.

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 13

Prayers of intercession

Today we pray for: (i) Holiness in personal relationships – parents and children, those unmarried, marriages; (ii) Our mission partners at Becontree Church; (iii) Our government.

Bible reading and Sermon – Matthew 23:1-23

Singing in response to God’s Word

“Not to us (receive the glory)” – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjyH0eTl7uA>

A prayer for God’s blessing – Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.