

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 19th July 2020

Before we join together: to help us prepare, sing two songs

"Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMcuapgOdGo>

"God is a holy God" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN16lYtAJNU>

At 10.45am: Welcome

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

We listen to these words from the prophet Isaiah, helping us to remember the faithfulness of God that will preserve his people into eternity (Isaiah 26:1-4):

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

"We have a strong city;

he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates,

that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.

⁴ Trust in the Lord forever,

for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Song: Great is thy faithfulness - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQ1oal44wU>

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

Together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our fellow men,
in thought and word and deed,
in the evil we have done and in the good we have not done,
through ignorance, 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.

Leader: prays in thanksgiving for Christ's death and resurrection, and prays that God would grant us assurance of the salvation that has been given freely to us.

Declaring our Christian faith using the Heidelberg Catechism

Leader:

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Together:

That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood,
and has set me free from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 18:25-50

The beginning of Psalm 18 recounted God's might in delivering King David from his enemies. The second half that we read today sings of his character – he is merciful, holy, and unchanging.

Prayers of intercession

Bible reading and Sermon: Malachi 1:1-5

Malachi = 6 arguments... for "tired" Christians... to encourage us to "return" to the Lord (3:7)

1:1-5 = Return to the Lord who loves his people

- You doubt my love for you
- I have CHOSEN to love YOU
- The wicked will not succeed
- You'll see my greatness – and worship

Song: O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxC16duiHvQ>

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Greatest treasure of my longing soul
My God, like You there is no other
True delight is found in You alone
Your grace, a well too deep to fathom
Your love exceeds the heavens' reach
Your truth, a fount of perfect wisdom
My highest good and my unending need

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Strong defender of my weary heart
My sword to fight the cruel deceiver
And my shield against his hateful darts
My song when enemies surround me
My hope when tides of sorrow rise
My joy when trials are abounding
Your faithfulness, my refuge in the night

O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
Gracious Saviour of my ruined life
My guilt and cross laid on Your shoulders
In my place You suffered bled and died
You rose, the grave and death are conquered
You broke my bonds of sin and shame
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer
May all my days bring glory to Your Name

Closing prayer from Romans 16:25-27

"Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen."