

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 29th November 2020

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

"Though the dark is overwhelming": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0ac4sT-4-o>

"Who were our first parents?": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6ePemWHS8k>

At 10.45am: Welcome

Scriptural call to worship – James 5:7-8

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth,
being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.
You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
by his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

**God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sin
For not being ready for the return of Jesus
Father, forgive us.
For failing you by what we do, think and say
Father, forgive us
For living as if this world is all there is
Father, forgive us
For not looking forward to the return of Jesus
Father, forgive us.
Amen**

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 73

Prayers of intercession

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.

Song: Jesus is Lord the cry that echoes through creation

Jesus is Lord the cry that echoes through creation,
resplendent power, eternal Word, our rock.
The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,
Yet bids us come to taste this living bread.

Jesus is Lord whose word sustains the stars and planets,
Yet in His wisdom laid aside His crown.
Jesus the Man, who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,
Became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

Jesus is Lord, the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,
And we can run into the arms of God.

Jesus is Lord a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
As He returns, and every knee bows low.
Then every eye and every heart will see His glory,
The Judge of all will take His children home.

Bible reading – 1 Peter 1:3-9

Sermon: God's purposes in afflicting Christians

When you're in trouble it's OK to ask God "Why?"

Ps 10:1, "Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"
Ps 13:1, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?"

Ungodly questions (Romans 9:20) and Silence (Psalm 39:1)

No specific answers?

1. To grow our faith

1 Peter 1:3-7

E.g. Abraham → Genesis 22:8, 12

E.g. Paul → 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2. To build character

Romans 5:1-5

E.g. Joseph → Genesis 37-41, Psalm 105:18

E.g. J.I Packer

3. To drive us to God

Psalm 73

E.g. Asaph

E.g. Sarah Edwards

"My very dear child, What shall I say? A holy and good God has covered us with a dark cloud. O that we may kiss the rod, and lay our hands on our mouths! The Lord has done it. He has made me adore his goodness, that we had him so long. But my God lives; and he has my heart. O what a legacy my husband, and your father, has left us! We are all given to God; and there I am, and love to be. Your affectionate mother, Sarah Edwards."

Song: The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy.
I feast on His pure delights.

*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one.
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

Final prayer and blessing

All songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under CCLI license 1916202