

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 6th December 2020

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

"O come, all you unfaithful": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-QHbpYjulg>

"How did God make Adam and Eve?": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEZ6Az7SDsA>

At 10.45am: Welcome

Scriptural call to worship – James 5:7-8

*"...Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Hymn: While shepherds watched their flocks by night

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he – for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind -
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind:

3. 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6. 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from highest heaven
begin and never cease!'

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 56

Prayers of intercession

Declaring our faith using the Heidelberg Catechism

What is your only comfort in life and death?

**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.**

Song: I will glory in my Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer
Whose priceless blood has ransomed me
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails
And hung Him on that judgment tree
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who crushed the power of sin and death
My only Saviour before the holy Judge
The Lamb who is my righteousness
The Lamb who is my righteousness

I will glory in my Redeemer
My life He bought, my love He owns
I have no longings for another
I'm satisfied in Him alone
I will glory in my Redeemer
His faithfulness my standing place
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me
My feet are firm, held by His grace
My feet are firm, held by His grace

I will glory in my Redeemer
Who carries me on eagles' wings
He crowns my life with lovingkindness
His triumph song I'll ever sing
I will glory in my Redeemer
Who waits for me at gates of gold
And when He calls me, it will be paradise
His face forever to behold
His face forever to behold

Bible reading – Luke 12:22-34

Sermon: Fear, anxiety and the providence of God

Introduction: What do you do when you find the Bible hard?

Hard to believe? (The sovereignty of God doesn't make sense to me)
Hard to live out? (I believe God's sovereign... but why am I still so fearful?)

Our Father KNOWS that we are fearful people

Luke 12:32, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Psalm 56:3-4, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?"

The daily battle for faith over fear – e.g. Exodus 16

The Lord calls us to SPEAK to ourselves... about our POWERFUL GOD

Biblical meditation – e.g. Psalm 77

"I am God..." – e.g. Job, Nehemiah 9:6

"I am with you..." – e.g. Psalm 23

Hymn: Praise my soul the king of heaven

Praise my soul the King of heaven
To His feet your tribute bring
Ransomed healed restored forgiven
Who like me His praise should sing
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him
Praise the everlasting King

2. Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress
Praise Him still the same for ever
Slow to anger swift to bless
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him
Glorious in His faithfulness

3. Father like He tends and spares us
Well our human frame He knows
In His hands He gently bears us
Rescues us from all our foes
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him
Widely as His mercy flows

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him, praise Him, praise Him, praise Him
Praise the high eternal On

5. Angels help us to adore Him
You behold Him face to face
Sun and moon bow down before Him
All who dwell in time and space
Praise Him, praise Him, Praise Him, praise Him
Praise with us the God of grace

Final prayer and blessing

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