

Abbotsford Anglican Church St Andrews

Sunday, 25 July 2021

Service of Word and Prayer Form 4

WELCOME - Trevor

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another to love and good deeds.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*catholic = literally "of the whole," universal, complete

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Gracious God, your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. Today, when we hear your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart. Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in your way, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS – Rosemary

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." NIV)

Ezra 1:1-11, 2:68-70

^{1:1} In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

² "This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. ³ Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. ⁴ And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem."

⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. ⁶ All their neighbours assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

⁷ Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. ⁸ Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ This was the inventory:

gold dishes	- 30
silver dishes	- 1,000
silver pans	- 29
¹⁰ gold bowls	- 30
matching silver bowls	- 410
other articles	- 1,000

¹¹ In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along with the exiles when they came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

^{2:68} When they arrived at the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, some of the heads of the families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God on its site. ⁶⁹ According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver and 100 priestly garments.

⁷⁰ The priests, the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers and the temple servants settled in their own towns, along with some of the other people, and the rest of the Israelites settled in their towns. (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The promise of a new beginning for God's people.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

William N. Runyan

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.

Chorus

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!

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.
Chorus

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Chorus.*
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CONFESSION

**Heavenly Father,
we praise you for adopting us
as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.
In your mercy,
you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.
Yet we still fail to love you
and serve you as we should.
Forgive us our sins
and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow
as members of Christ,
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ was sacrificed once
and for all to bear the sins of many. God
therefore forgives those who look to his
Son for mercy. **Amen.**

PRAYING FOR GOD'S WORLD - David

The Lord be with you
and also with you.
Let us pray.

**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.**

SET PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Let us pray that we will make good use of
the gifts that God has given us.

God our Father and protector, without you
nothing is holy, nothing has value. Guide us
to everlasting life by helping us to use
wisely the blessings you have given to the
world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever
and ever. **Amen.** *AAPB page 243*

*Further prayer for God's world, his church,
the community, the spread of the gospel,
Special Religious Education and Anglican
School Chaplaincy.*

COVID 19 PRAYER

Sovereign Lord, you know all things and
through all circumstances of life you
accompany your people. Prosper the work
of those providing a vaccine for the
coronavirus and its distribution.
Protect and strengthen those who are
treating the sick. Comfort the sick and
those who mourn the loss of loved ones or
are living in fear of this disease.
Give to the governing authorities wisdom in
their management of this crisis, and grant
to your people patience, compliance and
peace, generous and wise hearts and a
renewed trust in your sovereign goodness
and glory.
Turn the hearts of many experiencing fear
and anxiety to you that they may find that
peace which only you can give, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOING OUT TO SERVE

Since we are receiving a kingdom that
cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and
so serve God in a way that is pleasing to
him with reverence and awe, for our God is
a consuming fire. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.