

Abbotsford Anglican Church St Andrews

Sunday, 30 August 2020

Service of Word and Prayer Form 4

WELCOME – Diane

Psalm 98

**¹ Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.**

**² The Lord has made his salvation
known
and revealed his righteousness to the
nations.**

**³ He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

**⁴ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;**

**⁵ make music to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,**

**⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the
ram's horn—
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**

**⁷ Let the sea resound, and everything in
it,
the world, and all who live in it.**

**⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;**

**⁹ let them sing before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity. (NIV)**

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 by 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 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 reading - Janice

Romans 4:1-25

¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.

⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised.

So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. ¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being

fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” ²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness — for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon - Trevor
‘Show me the proof.
Where’s that in the Bible?’
Sermon series: ‘Righteousness revealed’

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.**

SONG

On the screen to listen to...but at home sing along!

By Faith

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend / Kristyn Getty

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove
His faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise
in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand
A place where peace and justice reign

Chorus:

*We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him
our soul's reward
Till the race is finished
and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains
of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave

By faith the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives
and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth *Chorus*

By faith this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ
all things are possible
For all who call upon His name *Chorus x 2*
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Interview - Trevor

Rev Emily Carpenter
Anglicare Hospital Chaplain
Concord Hospital

PRAYING FOR GOD’S WORLD

Rosemary

Set prayer for the day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and constantly give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down on us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

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*Further prayer for God's world,
his church, the community,
Anglicare Hospital Chaplaincy,
Ministry to Refugees,
and the spread of the gospel.*

**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.**

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.**