

Abbotsford Anglican Church St Andrews

Sunday, 31st May 2020

Service of Word and Prayer Form 4B

Present: Fiona, David, Karen, Rosemary,
Teena, Linda and Trevor.
(Social distancing practiced)

WELCOME - Fiona

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.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. *Hebrews 1:1-2*

In His Name

Charles Wesley, 1739.

**The prophets saw in ages past
Light in the distant dawn
The King is bound in agony
Will rise to life again
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard
This is God's only plan
This is God's only plan**

Chorus:

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great redeemer's praises
O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great redeemer's praises**

**The Son of God now in the flesh
He seeks to save the lost
A King who left his majesty
Behind to set us free
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard
This is God's only plan
This is God's only plan** *Chorus*

**His Spirit gives us words to speak
'Jesus Christ is Lord'
And as he breaks the hardest heart
He's worshipped and adored
And in his name a saving word
Release from every stain
And in the darkness we have heard
This is God's only plan
This is God's only plan** *Chorus*
Woodhouse/Walter/Perkins | 2010

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Together, let us affirm with Christians across the ages what we believe about God and his love for us.

**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.**

HEARING GOD'S WORD - Fiona

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 – Karen

Our two Bible readings this morning are from ...

Romans 14:5-13

⁵ One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶ Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your (Christian) brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with

contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

¹¹ It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. ¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. (NIV)

Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. ²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON – Trevor

"The desire to belong"

(Sermon Series: What makes people tick?)

So You Would Come

Russell Fragar

**Before the world began,
you were on his mind.
And every tear you cry
is precious in his eyes.**

Because of his great love
he gave his only Son.
Everything was done so you would come.

Nothing you can do
could make him love you more
and nothing that you've done
could make him close the door.
Because of his great love
he gave his only Son.
Everything was done so you would come.

Chorus:

Come to the Father
though your gift is small;
broken hearts, broken lives -
he will take them all.
The power of the Word,
the power of his blood -
everything was done so you would come.

Nothing you can do
could make him love you more
and nothing that you've done
could make him close the door.
Because of his great love
he gave his only Son.
Everything was done so you would come.

Chorus

The power of the Word,
the power of his blood -
everything was done so you would come.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Fiona

The Scriptures remind us that...

"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves
and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins
God is faithful and just and will forgive us our
sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

1 John 1:8-9

Knowing the mercy of God let us pray...

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

We praise you, God,
we praise you, for you are near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds. *Psalm 75:1*

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my
fortress, my God, in whom I trust." *Psalm 91.1-2*

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through us
to bring Christ to the world.

God our Father, let the Spirit you sent on your
Church to begin the teaching of the gospel
continue to work in the world through the hearts
of all who believe. 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.**

Set prayer for Pentecost AAPB p220

As our Saviour Christ has taught let's say the
Lord's Prayer together...

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.

Further Prayer - David

Prayer for God's world, his church and each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Trevor

At the Name of Jesus

Caroline M. Noel (1817-1877)

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
king of glory now;
this the father's pleasure
that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty word.

At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light;
thrones and domination,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders, in their bright array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came;
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height;
to the eternal Godhead,
to the Father's throne,
filled it with the glory of his triumph won.

Name him, Christin, name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath;
he is God the saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshiped trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour,
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

With his Father's glory, Jesus comes again,
angels hosts attend him
and announce his reign;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
king of glory now.

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GOING OUT TO SERVE - Fiona

Gracious God, you made an eternal covenant
with us through the blood of your Son, and
brought him back from the dead as the great
Shepherd of your sheep. Equip us with
everything good for doing your will. Work in us
what is pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**