

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 29 March 2020

Before we join together: two songs to watch online – to help us prepare

- (1) "Your love will last forever" (a slightly noisy children's song!):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9ajEQpKYo4&list=PLY5PFDsRhoVRaaTM8hRevNVhHVnDRDGCG>
- (2) "O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpELMk4-3n8>

At 10.45am: a call to worship, and prayer for God's presence and blessing

We read together:

"Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you."

(Nehemiah 9:5-6)

Almighty God,
to whom our hearts are open,
our desires are known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the gracious power of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You
and worthily magnify Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remembering together God's providence (from the Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 27 & 28)

Leader:

What do you understand by the providence of God?

We declare together:

God's providence is his almighty and ever present power,
whereby, as with his hand, he still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so governs them that leaf and blade,
rain and drought, fruitful and barren years,
food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty,
indeed, all things,
come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Leader:

What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things
and still upholds them by his providence?

We declare together:

We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity,
and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father
that no creature shall separate us from his love;
for all creatures are so completely in his hand
that without his will they cannot so much as move.

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

Leader:

Hear the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (*Matthew 11:28*).
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (*John 3:16*).

Together:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Leader: prays in thanksgiving for Christ's death and resurrection, and asks for the Lord to help us know deeply the joy of forgiveness.

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 5

¹ Listen to my words, Lord, consider my lament.

² Hear my cry for help, my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

³ In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before you
and wait expectantly.

⁴ For you are not a God who is pleased with
wickedness;
with you, evil people are not welcome.

⁵ The arrogant cannot stand in your presence.

You hate all who do wrong;

⁶ you destroy those who tell lies.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful
you, Lord, detest.

⁷ But I, by your great love,

can come into your house;

in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple.

⁸ Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies—
make your way straight before me.

⁹ Not a word from their mouth can be trusted;
their heart is filled with malice.

Their throat is an open grave;
with their tongues they tell lies.

¹⁰ Declare them guilty, O God!
Let their intrigues be their downfall.

Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

¹² Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Prayers of intercession

Today we pray for: (i) church family needs; (ii) the unity & growth of our church; (iii) gospel growth.

Biblereading and sermon – Matthew 19:1-15

A prayer for God's blessing – from Psalm 67:1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us—
so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.
May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!

Singing in response to God's Word:

"We rest on Thee": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYjBWOz9kwM&list=RDrItIF01Lp3I&index=4>