

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 8th November 2020

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

"Praise my soul, the King of Heaven" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-W74SzQZe0>

"Why did God make all things?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm96GGDgoZ8>

At 10.45am: Welcome

Scriptural call to worship – John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Hymn: We rest on Thee

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender!

We go not forth alone against the foe;
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,
We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.
Strong in Thy strength, safe in Thy keeping tender,
We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go.

2. Yes, in Thy Name, O Captain of salvation!
In Thy dear Name, all other names above;
Jesus our Righteousness, our sure Foundation,
Our Prince of glory and our King of love.
Jesus our Righteousness, our sure Foundation,
Our Prince of glory and our King of love.

3. We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,
And needing more each day Thy grace to know:
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
"We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go."
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
"We rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go."

4. We rest on Thee, our Shield and our Defender!
Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise;
When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,
Victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days.
When passing through the gates of pearly splendour,
Victors, we rest with Thee, through endless days

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all people,
we acknowledge and lament our many sins,
and the wickedness we have committed
time after time, by thought, word and deed
against your divine majesty.
We have provoked your righteous anger
and your indignation against us.
We earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for these our wrongdoings;
the memory of them weighs us down,
the burden of them is too great for us to bear.
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that from this time forward
we may always serve and please you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Act of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we who are left grow old:
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them:



We will remember them

We will keep two minutes of silence.

Declaring our faith together

What do you believe when you say:

I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

**That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who out of nothing created heaven and earth
and all that is in them,
and who still upholds and governs them
by his eternal counsel and providence,
is, for the sake of Christ his Son, my God and my Father.
In him I trust so completely as to have no doubt
that he will provide me
with all things necessary for body and soul,
and will also turn to my good
whatever adversity he sends me in this life of sorrow.
He is able to do so as almighty God,
and willing also as a faithful Father.**

(Heidelberg Catechism, question 26)

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 32

Prayers of intercession

Bible reading and sermon: John 3:1-8

Introduction: Why did you do it?!

Proverbs 21:1, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will."

Recap: the providence of God

Ephesians 1:11, Romans 8:28, Job 26:14

1. Your heart makes choices

The Bible is full of commands to choose...

Mark 1:14-15, Joshua 24:15,

I am responsible for the choices my heart makes:

Hebrews 9:27, "Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgement."

2 Corinthians 5:10

Am I really free to choose?

Liberty of desire – John 8:31-47, Matt 26:14-16 and John 17:12

2. Your heart is in God's hand

Your conversion:

Deuteronomy 29:4, "But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear."

Deuteronomy 30:6, "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

Ezekiel 36:26, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Jeremiah 31:33, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

John 3:7-8

Your sanctification:

Philippians 2:12-13, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."

Psalms 119:36, "Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to dishonest gain."

Puzzles and mysteries

Conclusion

WCF 10.1, "All those—and only those—whom God has predestined to life, he is pleased to call effectually in his appointed and accepted time, by his Word and Spirit. He calls them from the state of sin and death—in which they are by nature—to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ. In this calling, God enlightens their minds spiritually and savingly, so that they understand the things of God. He takes away their hearts of stone and gives them hearts of flesh, renews their wills, and by his almighty power turns them to what is good and effectually draws them to Jesus Christ. Yet he does this in such a way that they come most freely, being made willing by his grace."

Song: Immortal honours

Immortal honours rest on Jesus' head;

My God, my portion, and my Living Bread;
In Him I live, upon Him cast my care;
He saves from death, destruction, and despair.

He is my Refuge in each deep distress;
The Lord my strength & glorious righteousness;
Through floods and flames He leads me safely on,
And daily makes His sovereign goodness known.

My every need He richly will supply;
Nor will His mercy ever let me die;
In Him there dwells a treasure all divine,
And matchless grace has made that treasure mine.

O that my soul could love and praise Him more,
His beauties trace, His majesty adore;
Live near His heart, rest in His love each day,
Hear His dear voice and all His will obey.

Final prayer and blessing