

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 21st February 2021

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

"Grace and Peace" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPZFBq7EiSQ>

"What is sin?" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrF9f30pEzw>

Welcome and call to worship

Romans 1:4b-6 "...Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations..."

Song: Grace unmeasured, vast and free

Grace unmeasured, vast and free,
that knew me from eternity,
that called me out before my birth,
to bring you glory on this earth.
Grace amazing, pure and deep,
that saw me in my misery,
that took my curse and owned my blame,
so I could bear your righteous name

*Grace (grace, grace) paid for my sins
and brought me to life.
Grace (grace, grace) clothes me with pow'r
to do what is right.
Grace (grace, grace) will lead me to heav'n
where I'll see your face,
and never cease to thank you for your grace.*

Grace abounding, strong and true,
that makes me long to be like you,
that turns me from my selfish pride,
to love the cross on which you died.
Grace unending all my days,
you'll give me strength to run this race.
And when my years on earth are through
the praise will all belong to you.

*Grace (grace, grace) paid for my sins
and brought me to life.
Grace (grace, grace) clothes me with pow'r
to do what is right.
Grace (grace, grace) will lead me to heav'n
where I'll see your face,
and never cease to thank you for your grace.*

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.**

Declaring our faith using the Heidelberg Catechism

**What is your only comfort in life and death?
That I am not my own,
but belong with body and soul,
both in life and in death,
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins
with his precious blood,
and has set me free
from all the power of the devil.
He also preserves me in such a way
that without the will of my heavenly Father
not a hair can fall from my head; indeed,
all things must work together for my salvation.
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit
he also assures me of eternal life
and makes me heartily willing
and ready from now on to live for him.**

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 42

Prayers of intercession

Song: Now in reverence and awe

1. Now in reverence and awe
we gather round your Word;
in wonder we draw near
to mysteries that angels strain to hear,
that prophets dimly saw:
so let your Spirit
shine upon the page and teach me;

*Open up my eyes, with truth to free me,
light to chase the lies.
Lord Jesus, let me meet
you in your Word;
Lord Jesus, let me meet
you in your Word.*

2. Lord, your truth cannot be chained;
it searches everything
my secrets, my desires.
Your Word is like a hammer and a fire
it breaks, it purifies:
so let your Spirit
shine into my heart and teach me;

*Open up my eyes, with truth to free me,
light to chase the lies.
Lord Jesus, let me meet
you in your Word;
Lord Jesus, let me meet
you in your Word.*

Bible reading and sermon – Genesis 44:1 – 45:15

Introduction:

Holiness is usually painful and slow...

Recap: Joseph's holiness tests...

42:17ff = the suffering test

42:35ff = the silver test

42:37, 43:9 = the substitution test

43:33-34 = the favouritism test

Joseph sets his final test (44:1-14)

Judah has been transformed (44:14-34)

Judah's past - Gen. 37-38: selfishness, sex, murder...

Judah's transformation

v16 = repentance

v33 = sacrifice

The Lord's family is being healed (45:1-15)

Hymn: Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us;
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us;
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Final prayer and blessing

All songs covered by CCLI have been reproduced under CCLI Licence Number 1916202.