

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 23 March 2020

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

“Jesus said that if I thirst”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac

“Come thou fount of every blessing” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YobLOgMBhKE>

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

We read together:

“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:8)

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.

Declaring together our faith (from the Heidelberg Catechism, Question 26)

Leader:

What do you believe when you say: “I believe in God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?”

We declare together:

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.

Listening to God's law, confessing our sins, and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

We listen to Jesus' summary of God's law in Mark 12:29-31, and then pray together:

Lord God, we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
You have given me relief when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!
O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?
But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.
Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.
Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.
There are many who say, “Who will show us some good?
Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”
You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.
In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Prayers of intercession

Today we pray for:

(1) church members in special need;

(2) persecuted Christians around the world;

(3) security and joy in Jesus – not just for the church, but for non-believers too.

We conclude by praying 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.

Biblereading and sermon – Matthew 18:21-35

A prayer for God’s blessing – from Philippians 4:7

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Singing in response to God’s Word: “Oh to see the dawn”

“Oh to see the dawn” (the power of the cross): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wcULqyoINg>