

SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020.

CALL TO WORSHIP.

Our call to worship is from Micah 6:8

God has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Let's pray:

It is good to be together, God,
on telephones, with these people,
together listening for your voice,
united by your Spirit.
In this time of worship
tell us about your kingdom of kindness
so that we can seek it.
Show us your justice.
We want to walk with you,
humbly, closely, daily.

HYMN:- StF 355. Jesus, lover of my soul.

1 Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

2 Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,

still support and comfort me.

All my trust on thee is stayed,

all my help from thee I bring;

cover my defenceless head

with the shadow of thy wing.

3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want;

more than all in thee I find;

Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,

heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name,

I am all unrighteousness;

false and full of sin I am,

thou art full of truth and grace.

4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,

grace to cover all my sin;

let the healing streams abound;

make and keep me pure within.

Thou of life the fountain art;

freely let me take of thee;

spring thou up within my heart,

rise to all eternity. (Charles Wesley 1707 -1788)

Prayers.

Lord God, we cannot begin to understand how wonderful you are.

You have not only shown us a way of life – YOU are the way!-
the way to God, the way to one another and the way of life.

You are the giver of life – life abundant,
life in the spirit and life eternal.

How can we praise you enough?

Made in your image, loved eternally and redeemed,
we praise you for the Holy Spirit to encourage us,
strengthen us, guide and comfort us.

Like Mary, we can say:

“My soul is glad because of God my saviour,
for he has remembered me, his lowly servant”.

We worship, praise and adore you.

Heavenly Father, we come before you in Jesus’ name, confessing that
in our actions and reactions we have failed you,
in our loving and forgiving we have fallen short of your mark,
in our believing and trusting we have denied your grace and power.

In silence we lay before you the specific sins which are clouding our relationship with you just
now...

We believe if we confess our sins you will forgive us and cleanse us

Thank you for that;

so may we live as those who know we are forgiven

because of what Jesus has done for our lives.

LORD’S PRAYER.

READING:- Matthew 18:21-35.

MESSAGE.

HYMN:- StF 434. Rock of Ages, cleft for me.

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740 -1778)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.

Father, we remember before you the needs of others:

those who feel rejected and unloved and unwanted,

those who are ill,

those who are angry at the way they have been let down, who feel life is passing them by,

those who have been made redundant but who would dearly love to have a job,

those who are heartbroken because of the death of a dear loved one

- comfort them in their grief, O Lord.

Father, we pray for those who live in fear of any kind

-help them to know you are with them,

those who have to face prejudice

because of their race or colour or tongue,
those who are fearful of the future with all its uncertainties,
those who face difficult decisions where there is no easy answer.
Let us pray for those who carry great stress because of family situations,
Those setting out on a new life together,
those struggling to bring up a family without sufficient means to do so,
those concerned for children who have left home
and who do not know where they are or what is happening to them
those coping with a new home or new job or new baby,
those about to begin retirement,
those who have served your church over many years
but who now feel out of things because they can no longer be actively involved.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers
and touch these situations with your grace and love,
as we pray in Jesus' name.

PRAYERS IN SILENCE OR ALLOWED.

HYMN:- StF 418. We have a gospel to proclaim.

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a saviour's name;
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;

in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him king:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)

THE GRACE.