

Lord's Day worship: Sunday 15th November 2020

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

"Ascribe greatness to our God, the Rock" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMcuapgOdGo>

"How can you glorify God?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ue4vXOfJqEU>

At 10.45am: Welcome

Scriptural call to worship – Psalm 33:1,4-5

"Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright.

For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD."

Song: Come praise and glorify our God

Come praise and glorify our God

The Father of our Lord
In Christ He has in heav'nly realms
His blessings on us poured
For pure and blameless in His sight
He destined us to be
And now we've been adopted through
His Son eternally

2. Come praise and glorify our God
Who gives His grace in Christ
In Him our sins are washed away
Redeemed through sacrifice
In Him God has made known to us
The myst'ry of His will
That Christ should be the head of all
His purpose to fulfill

*To the praise of Your glory
To the praise of Your mercy and grace
To the praise of Your glory
You are the God who saves*

3. Come praise and glorify our God
For we've believed the Word
And through our faith we have a seal
The Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit guarantees our hope
Until redemption's done
Until we join in endless praise
To God, the Three in One

Congregational Bible reading – Psalm 33

Confessing our sins and seeking the assurance of forgiveness

Father God,
I know I've done things you don't like.
Please forgive me.

I have not done things I should have done.
Please forgive me.

I have put myself first and not You.
Please forgive me.
Amen.

Declaring our faith together

What do you understand by the providence of God?

**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.**

(Heidelberg Catechism, question 27)

Prayers of intercession

Song: God moves in a mysterious way

**God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.**

2. Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill;
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works His sovereign will.

*You fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

3. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.

4. His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

*You fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

5. Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

*You fearful saints fresh courage take,
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.*

Bible reading – Job chapter 1

Sermon: Dark and painful providences

Introduction: the moon is always round...

1. Sorrow is normal for a Christian

The Saint

John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation..."

Acts 14:22, "...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Hebrews 11:35-40

The Saviour

Hebrews 2:10, "perfect through sufferings"

Isaiah 53:3, "man of sorrows, acquainted with grief."

"All things..."

Romans 8:28, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

2. Our Father brings adversity

The mystery of providence

Isaiah 45:7, "I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things."

Lamentations 3:38, "Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?"

Amos 3:6, "Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid?

Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?"

Ecclesiastes 7:13, "Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?"

Christians share in the sufferings of Jesus

Philippians 3:10, "... that I may know [Christ] and the power of his resurrection, the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming like him in his death..."

1 Peter 4:13, "But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed."

Our Father disciplines his children.

Deuteronomy 8:5, "Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you."

Revelation 3:19, "Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."

Hebrews 12:5-6

3. Learning from the example of Job

Job chapter 1

Lamentation

Job 3:1ff, 6:4, 9:17, 12:13-14, 13:3,

Hope

Job 13:15, 19:23-27

1 Corinthians 15:20, "For now is Christ risen from the dead the firstfruits of them that sleep."

Romans 8:38-39, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Song: He will hold me fast

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

2. Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cot,
He will hold me fast.

He will hold me fast...

3. For my life He bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast...

Final prayer and blessing