

Virtual Service 22 May 2022

Welcome! (Larry Robbins)

May something in this virtual service help to meet your spiritual needs this week.

Announcements

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions, more of our people are able to attend the services. Accordingly, the last Virtual Service in this format will be promulgated on 5 June. From 12 June we will just place the audio on the church website as soon after the service as is practicable (often on Sunday afternoon, but normally by Monday afternoon at the latest). We will send out an email when the audio is available.

Should Covid restrictions be imposed we will look at our resources and consider reinstating virtual services in some form.

(Eileen Barclay)

We Have Come into His House

Call to Worship Psalm 145

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you, Lord;

- your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
- ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.
- ¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Ascribe Greatness

God Forgave My Sin

Prayer (Clive Rhodes)

We come today before you Father, in the name of our Saviour, Jesus, to bring praise, glory and honour to your Name. You are worthy of all our worship which we bring willingly to you today.

Father, may we bring before you Pat J, Jim C, Rob B, Amal B and Dave P. The needs in each case are different but we ask that you would minister to each person in accordance with their individual need. We also bring Jim M to you asking that you would enable him to quickly regain strength after his aortic procedure so that he may be able to return to be among us and to join in giving praise and worship to You, our Father.

We remember Sue D and place her before You, asking that she would have a wonderful delayed reunion with family members in England and Australia. Please keep her in good health during her time away and may the plans that she has made come to fulfilment according to Your will.

May we remind you that as a Church we have placed before you the need that we have for more children to become part of this congregation. Their parents too, need a visitation from the Holy Spirit to encourage them to accompany their children and where necessary to accept Jesus as their own personal Saviour. We look to You for your provision to take place in these matters in the not-too-distant future.

We pray for our Pastor, Brian, that you will continue to guide him in the days that lie ahead, especially as his wife, Jo, has departed for a visit to Thailand and her parents returned to Canada last Wednesday after what we trust was a pleasant family reunion time.

May we place before you, Father, the upcoming Alpha sessions that are scheduled to be held in July. May there be a good response to this outreach from those you wish to touch by your Holy Spirit. Meet them at their point of need.

We pray that you will continue to provide us all with ongoing good health during these difficult times as Covid in its different variants, continues to move through our community. Forgive us Father when we have allowed the numbers of those falling ill or dying to have distracted us from keeping our focus on You. We pray for our Church leaders to be encouraged day by day with the guidance of Your Spirit, and for our elected leaders in Parliament to be able to make wise and achievable decisions especially in the latest Budget provisions. In regard to Finance, we bring to you the offerings that have been made to you today either by bank transfer or by the traditional envelope method. Please take them Father and use them to bring glory to Your name and to the benefit of this Your Church.

At this point let us consider 2 Kings 3:16–17 where the armies of three kings were famishing for the want of water. The Lord through His prophet Elijah commanded that they dig ditches which He would fill with water but not by rain. The Lord has His own sovereign modes of action and does as He please among the sons of man. It is ours thankfully to receive from Him and not to dictate to Him. We should notice that in this occasion there was a remarkable abundance of supply, enough for the need all. And so it is in the gospel blessing; all the needs of the congregation and of the entire church shall be met by the divine power in answer to prayer; and above all this, victory shall be given speedily to the armies of the Lord.

What are we doing for Jesus? What trenches are we digging? O Lord make us ready to receive the blessing which You are so willing to bestow.

Father, to you now be all glory and honour, praise and blessing, in the name of Your Son, Jesus, Amen!

(Eileen Barclay)

The Church's One Foundation

Bible Reading Colossians 2:6-15

- ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
- ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh, was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been

buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Sermon "Spiritual Fullness in Christ"

(Brian Lima)

Read the Sermon

Listen to the Sermon

(Will be posted here after the service)

We Are Called to Be God's People

Benediction

Therefore, my beloved brothers (and sisters), be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58