

Christ Church URC, Rayleigh

Service

Sunday 14 August 2022

**Call To Worship** : Brothers and Sisters in Christ, come to worship, your heavenly father, Come to worship his son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Saviour, Come to worship and let God's Holy Spirit enrich you.

**Hymn: WF 14**

*Bless the Lord, all my soul;*

*O sing my soul, worship His holy name,*

*Sing like never before, o my soul.*

*I will worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,

Let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,

the end draws near and my time is come,

still my soul will sing Your praise unending

ten thousand years and then forever more!

Bless the Lord, o my soul;

O my soul worship his holy name.

Sing like never before, o my soul.

I'll worship Your holy name.

I'll eworship your holy name.

Yes, I'll worship your holy name.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we come before your throne of grace to humbly worship you. You are our loving father, who loves us forever, despite all our failings. You know everything we are thinking, Everything we want to say before we open our mouths. We give thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Saviour, who came to earth in human form, lived among us and was crucified on the cross at Calvary so that those who believe in him, might have everlasting life and their sins forgiven. We give thanks for family and friends who love us and the planet on which we live. We ask your forgiveness, Heavenly Father for not being better custodians of this gift that you granted to us. Above all, we ask forgiveness for the things we have said or thought or done, which have not found favour in your sight; but above all for the things we have left unsaid or undone. We acknowledge our weakness, for we stumble at any obstacle placed in our path. We acknowledge our weakness and ask that you Holy Spirit strengthen and sustain us, so that we can always seek to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, so that at the end of our time here on earth, we may live with you and he in heaven above and all these things we ask in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Amen

And now we say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name;

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done;

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
For ever and ever. **Amen**

### **Children's Time (Sandy)**

#### **Gifts**

#### **Hymn: WF 109**

Who put the colours in the rainbow?  
Who put the salt in the sea?  
Who put the cold into the snowflake?  
Who made you and me  
Who made you and me?  
Who put the hump on the camel?  
Who put the neck on the giraffe?  
Who put the tail on the monkey?  
Who made the hyenas laugh?  
Who made whale and snails and quails  
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?  
Who made bats and rats and cats?  
Who made ev'rything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine,  
Who put the sparkle in the stars?  
Who put silver in the moonlight?  
Who made Earth and Mars?

Who put the scent into the roses?  
Who taught the honey bee to dance?  
Who put the tree inside the acorn?  
It surely can't be chance!  
Who made seas and leaves and trees?  
Who made snow and winds that blow?  
Who made streams and rivers flow?  
God made all of these!

## **Blessing as the children go to Sunday Club**

**Reading: Luke 12 vv49-56 (Chris)**

### **Talk 1**

This in some ways, might appear to be a slightly awkward section from Luke's gospel, but in the context of following on from verses 15 to 48, where Jesus is warning people to be prepared both for the second coming and also for God's summons to them, it makes more sense.

In verses 49-53 the words that Jesus spoke would have come as a real shock to those who were beginning to regard Jesus as the Messiah, as they regarded the Messiah as a conqueror and king and the Messianic age as a golden one. In Jewish thought fire was almost always the symbol of judgement. This must mean then that Jesus regarded the coming of his kingdom as a time of judgement. This created a problem for the Jews thought they would be judged by one standard and the rest of the nations by a different one. Here Jesus makes it clear all will be judged to the same standard.

Jesus goes on to say "that there is an experience through which he must pass and life full of tension until I pass through it and emerge triumphant from the desert they knew the sirocco-like wind blowing from it. He makes the point that his coming would inevitably mean division and of course it did. One of the reasons that the Romans hated Christianity was that it tore families in two. Again and again people had to decide whether they loved their families or Christ. The real

essence of Christianity is that loyalty to Christ takes precedence over everything else.

In the remainder of the reading, Jesus concentrates on telling people to be aware of God's coming. The Jews of Palestine were weather wise. When they saw clouds forming in the west over the Mediterranean Sea, they knew rain was coming. When the south wind blew, they knew that the sirocco like-wind was coming. Yet despite all this, they could not or would not read the signs of the times. If they had they would have seen the kingdom of God was on the way. Jesus and all his great servants have always been obsessed with the urgency of time. The poet Andrew Marvel spoke of hearing "times winged chariot hurrying near". Perhaps the overriding message from this chapter is not just trying to get us to understand what the coming of the kingdom of God means for us, but also trying to educate us to be able to read the signs of its coming.

### **Hymn R&S 234**

*Alleluia, alleluia*

*Give thanks to the risen Lord*

*Alleluia, alleluia,*

*Give praise to his name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

He is the King of creation,

*Alleluia, alleluia etc.*

Spread the god news o'er all the earth,

Jesus has died and has risen:

*Alleluia, alleluia etc.*

We have been crucified with Christ

now we shall live for ever:

*Alleluia, alleluia etc.*

Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour,  
*Alleluia, alleluia etc.*

## **Reading: Hebrews 12vv18-29 (Chris)**

### **Talk 2**

In this reading from the letter to the Hebrews, the first thing we see is a comparison, between the old and the new,. It is a contrast between the giving of the law on Mount Sinai and the new covenant offered by Jesus. in Deuteronomy Chapter 4 verse 11 there is a description of the first law-giving where the person stood at the foot of the mountain, which was blazing to the heavens, shrouded in dark clouds and in Exodus 19 vv12-13, it tells of the unapproachability of that awful mountain – no-one could go up the mountain or even touch the edge of it for death would follow if anyone was silly enough to pay no heed to the very clear instructions. The people were so afraid to hear God's voice themselves that they asked Moses to go and to bring God's message to them. The people feared that they would die if they heard God's voice.

In the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, three things are stressed:

Firstly, the sheer majesty of God, the story stresses the shattering power of God and there is no love there at all. Secondly the unapproachability of God, where the way to God being open was so far away the people's belief because anyone who approached God met death. Lastly the sheer terror of God is stressed, where there is nothing but an awe-stricken fear which is afraid not only to look, but even to listen.

But suddenly at verse 22 we have all that could be expected under the old covenant, but then a promise for Christians that there is a new covenant and a new relationship with God, the God of lonely majesty, complete separation from men and women and the overwhelming fear is no more. The writer to the Hebrews highlights the new glories that await Christians; the new Jerusalem where the old life goes to be replaced by a new life for Christians, the angels await them in joyful assembly, and all those who have been honoured by God await them. But just as Jesus told the people in our reading from Luke, God the judge awaits them.

Christians must stand God's scrutiny and God. The glory is there, yes but so is the awe and fear of God.

The writer is also quite clear, that it was Jesus who initiated this new covenant and made this new relationship with God. This is why towards the end of the reading from Luke's gospel, Jesus was encouraging the people to be aware of what was coming, because it was so different from what had preceded it. After Jesus had come and lived and died, the God who was distant and unapproachable was brought close and the way opened to his presence.

It is clear to the writer that all things may pass away; the world as we know it may be uprooted; life as an experience may come to an end; but one certainty remains the relationship of every Christian to God. As a result there is a great and in all that follows, nothing really matters except loyalty to God laid upon us – to worship God with reverence and serve Him with fear; for nothing must be allowed to disturb that relationship which will be our salvation when the world passes away. If we are true to God, we gain everything and if we are untrue to God we lose everything. Even in this year of 2022 and all the years that follow, nothing really matters except loyalty to God.

**Amen**

### **Hymn WF 19**

Come, let us worship Jesus,  
King of nations, Lord of all. Magnificent and glorious,  
Just and merciful.

*Jesus, King of the nations,*

*Jesus, Lord of all.*

*Jesus, King of the nations,*

*Lord of all.*

Lavish our hearts' affection,  
Deepest love and highest praise,

Voice, race and language blending,  
All the world amazed.

*Jesus, King of all the nations etc.*

Bring tributes from the nations,  
Come in joyful cavalcades,  
One thunderous acclamation,  
One banner raised.

*Jesus, king of the nations etc.*

Come, Lord, and fill your temple,  
Glorify Your dwelling place,  
till nations see Your splendour  
and seek your face.

*Jesus, King of the nations etc.*

Fear God and give him glory,  
For His hour of judgement comes.  
Creator, Lord Almighty,  
Worship him alone.

*Jesus, King of all the nations etc.*

### **Prayers of Intercession (Sue)**

### **Hymn R&S 558**

Will you come and follow me,



If I but call your name  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known  
will you let my life be grown  
In you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should you life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside,  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world aro  
When you but call my nameund  
Through my sight and touch and sound  
In you and you in me.

Lord, your summons echo true  
When you but call my name  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same,  
In your company I'll go  
Where your love and footsteps show,  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you and you in me.

### **Blessing**

**Our service is over. May you go out from here strengthened by God's love, guided by the hand of Jesus and living joyfully in God's Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

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