

KSAT Worship Service for Sunday – 23rd August 2020

THEME – ‘God’s Care and hope for the future’

Our thanks go to Bernard Staley this week for the reflection; to John and Cath Thwaites for the hymns; and to Dacre and Avril Swinbank for the prayers

Hymn MP 16 – All my hope on God is founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3LCGh02Vew>

All my hope on God is founded: He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance He guideth, only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone calls my heart to be His own.
Pride of man and earthly glory, sword and crown betray his trust:
What with care and toil he buildeth, tower and temple fall to dust.
But God’s power, hour by hour, is my temple and my tower.
God’s great goodness aye endureth, deep His wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend Him, beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, from His store, new-born worlds rise and adore.
Still, from man to God eternal, sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising for the gift of Christ His Son.
Christ doth call one and all: ye who follow shall not fall.

Prayer of Preparation

Thank you Lord that you are here with us today. Although we may be in many different places and worshipping at many different times, we know that we are one in You and You hold us all together. Be with us now and speak to us as we all share together.

Lord, help us worship you with an undistracted heart.

Please help our minds not to wander and help us to focus on you and your glory.

Lord, show us the wonders of your Word and deepen our faith in You.

Lord, help us build each other up with the gifts and opportunities You have given us.

Show us how our family lives, work, and hobbies can be used to share the gospel through the way we live our lives. Use this service to build us up and send us out to share your gospel, in the power of your Spirit.

Lord, deepen our longing for Christ’s return. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Father God, You are the One who leads us from darkness into light,
from captivity into freedom, from anxiety into peace, from despair into hope and joy.

Yet we long to break free, choosing independence,
convinced of our own wisdom and forgetting Your love and grace.

Forgive us, Lord; draw close to us and embrace us once again in Your loving arms,
and enable us to follow You in worship and grateful service each day of our lives

(take a moment of silence to bring your own confessions to our loving Heavenly Father)

Hear the words of grace and hope: Jesus says, ‘Your sins are forgiven – go and sin no more’.

And, Lord God, we are truly thankful. **Amen**

Lord’s Prayer

Reading: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to You, LORD; Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

If You, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve You.

I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits and in His word I put my hope.

*I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.*

*Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with Him is full redemption.*

He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Hymn – On Eagles Wings <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvpjxfWrjzY>

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge, My Rock in Whom I trust."

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His Hand.*

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
Under His Wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.

For to His angels He's given a command, to guard you in all of your ways,
Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

(Michael Joncas)

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4v16 – 5v1

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

***5** For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

Reflection

As I write this reflection, we are in the middle of the terrible pandemic caused by the coronavirus. If someone had told us at the beginning of the year that by the end of July around 47,000 people would have died, we would have said 'No. No. How can this be?' All these people, who have gone, are someone's grandparent, sister, brother, parent or child and our hearts go out to all those who have lost someone and we lift them up in our prayers. We continue to thank all the doctors, nurses, care workers, paramedics and many others who have worked tirelessly with real commitment through this time.

The virus has affected so many things in all sorts of ways. Jobs have been lost and businesses have closed never to reopen. It has affected all our lives in different ways and of course our church life is not the same. We miss meeting in our buildings for worship and fellowship, but, as we know, even though we cannot meet in our buildings without restrictions, we are the church and still very much alive. Over the weeks we have been blessed and encouraged by watching a variety of streamed services on 'YouTube' and of course the weekly services prepared by various people in our circuit, which have been challenging and helpful.

One good thing which has come out of the pandemic is the way it has brought people together; strangers who have become friends delivering shopping and collecting medication for those who could not venture out. I am reminded of the hymn which says, '*He bids us build each other up; and, gathered into one, to our high calling's glorious hope, we hand in hand go on.*'

How much we need the support and encouragement of those all around us! In one of my daily readings, under the heading of ***Rooted in love***, the story is told of the sequoia trees which grow on the west coast of the USA. They can grow to an immense height in very shallow soil; but the thing which stops them from falling over is their roots, which although not deeply rooted, entwine together. They gain their strength from each other – without which, they would fall when the storms come, but together they are strong. As Christians we should be there for each other giving support and sharing God's love.

Through all history there has been pain and suffering and we can read of many people in the Bible who suffered in so many different ways. Not least was Christ Himself, who went through agony and the Cross to save us. Thinking of the present situation, we can remember Job, who lost all his family and livestock, but never lost his faith and in the end prospered again. Our eight year old grandson has tried to reassure us throughout this time of trouble, saying many times, 'Don't worry it will come to an end'. We should remember that **nothing** can separate us from God. (*Romans 8v28*)

The words found in Corinthians tell us not to lose heart. It is never easy, but these are words that offer real hope. In these strange and difficult times, having faith to look forward and to see the light at the end of what seems a long dark tunnel can test us. Our reading urges us to 'fix our eyes' on our loving God – even, if at times, God appears 'unseen', He is the eternal truth. And let us continue to support and pray for each other – remember the sequoia trees!

Some words from a song written for the choir by the late Janet Edwards who always blessed us by her ministry:–

THE PLACE OF PEACE

*Where is the place my soul can find relief? Where is the place of perfect rest and peace?
Where in this troubled world do conflicts cease? Only in Jesus whose presence brings release.
So when life's burdens seem too great to bear and when you see no answer to your prayer,
Look to the Saviour, He will take you through, Jesus is longing to give His peace to you.*

Amen

Hymn – There is a hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQThH39HEIM>

There is a hope that burns within my heart, that gives me strength for every passing day;
A glimpse of glory now revealed in meagre part, yet drives all doubt away:
I stand in Christ, with sins forgiven; and Christ in me, the hope of heaven!
My highest calling and my deepest joy, to make His will my home.

There is a hope that lifts my weary head, a consolation strong against despair,
That when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit, I find the Saviour there.
Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers 'courage' in my ear.
For I am safe in everlasting arms, and they will lead me home.

There is a hope that stands the test of time, that lifts my eyes beyond the beckoning grave,
To see the matchless beauty of a day divine when I behold His face!
When sufferings cease and sorrows die, and every longing satisfied.
Then joy unspeakable will flood my soul, for I am truly home.

(Stuart Townend)

Prayers of Intercession

Lord we come to You now and pray for all those who are weary and broken. We pray for those who are in need today and who are carrying heavy burdens in their lives. For those who are worrying about the health of loved ones. We pray for the bereaved and those who are missing someone they love. We think especially of

We thank You for Your love and compassion, You never abandon us; help us to feel Your presence. We ask that in times of trial and hardship, You will strengthen our faith and help us to keep our eyes fixed on You.

We pray for the health workers who are looking after the seriously ill, for the scientists working on a vaccination for Covid 19, for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends, for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning. We thank You for their skill and continuing care.

We bring before you all the areas of our world where there is turmoil and suffering due to man's inhumanity to man. Be with all those whose lives have been affected by disasters, both natural and manmade, may they know Your peace and guiding hand in these difficult times.

We pray for all children and teachers who will shortly be returning to school and college. Help them to stay safe and well and give them strength, courage and wisdom as they navigate the 'new normal'. Make them aware that You are with them in every situation, that You guide them and care for them.

(Now take a short time to bring your personal needs to God)

Thank You, Lord that You hear our prayers and answer them in Your will. **Amen.**

Hymn MP 486 – Now thank we all our God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk>

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

(Martin Rinkart)

Closing Prayer

Lord, raise up your Church to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet to be present to the pain and need in our world, to respond with love in action if even from a safe distance. **Amen.**

The Grace