

CENTRAL URC HOVE
SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2020

TONY

Notices

Call to Worship

I, the Lord, do not change! Mal 3:6

May the grace of God be among us and the peace of God be in our hearts, as we come to worship our God, who is a constant presence in our lives and world. Amen

Hymn

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church's story,
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore.

JINNY

Prayer

Glorious is your name, O God, in Creator,
Saviour, and Spirit. You are our God and we
are your people. Our lives are blessed with
your presence. You are always lavishing your
grace upon us, and we give you thanks. Keep
us expectant, that your glory will be shown to
us, in ways that surprise and strengthen us.
As we worship, show us your glorious
presence and speak into our hearts of your
greatness. You are God of all things and yet
you are the God of every moment we live.
Give us the depth of love to serve you and
share your message of love. Amen.

CAROL

Reading 1

Psalm 91 v 1 - 5

Those who go to God Most High for safety will
be protected by the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of
safety and protection. You are my God and I
trust you."

God will save you from hidden traps and from
deadly diseases.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under
his wings you can hide. His truth will be your
shield and protection.

You will not fear any danger by night or an
arrow during the day. You will not be afraid of
diseases that come in the dark or sickness
that strikes at noon.

Reading 2

Exodus 33 v 12 –23

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "See, you say to
me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let
me know whom you will send with me. Yet
you have said, 'I know you by name, and you
have also found favour in my sight.'

¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favour in your
sight, please show me now your ways, that I
may know you in order to find favour in your
sight. Consider too that this nation is your
people."

¹⁴ And God said, "My presence will go with
you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ And Moses said to God, "If your presence
will not go with me, do not bring us up from
here.

¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found
favour in your sight, I and your people? Is it
not in your going with us, so that we are
distinct, I and your people, from every other
people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "This very
thing that you have spoken I will do, for you
have found favour in my sight, and I know you
by name."

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness
pass before you and will proclaim before you
my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious
to whom I will be gracious, and will show
mercy on whom I will show mercy.

²⁰ But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for humans shall not see me and live.”

²¹ And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock,

²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.

TONY

Prayer:

Glorious God, your word is alive and active among us. Speak and reveal your truth to us. Renew our trust in the power and glory of your love. Amen.

Hymn

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise;
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee;
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace;
the beauty of thy peace;

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm;
O still, small voice of calm.

SUE (Video)

Message

What do you need from God, to help and encourage you in faith, if you could ask? Moses gets to talk to God in an intimate and personal way. We know that from the beginning, with the burning bush encounter, God called Moses to liberate the children of Israel from captivity, so that they could receive the riches God longed for them to have, through God’s care. Moses knew God’s voice and throughout the long, eventful relationship they shared, Moses was able to be honest with God about how God’s ways were impacting on him, personally, and the people in his care. Moses wanted to ensure that whatever was to happen next, God would still be leading them into the promised future, of liberation and freedom. There were many ups and downs. This passage comes after the children of Israel were left alone and made a Golden Calf to worship. Moses was shocked and dismayed to discover what they had done, he broke the tablets, which contained the ten commandments and returns to God to see what is to be done next, to pick up the pieces. Moses doesn’t seem to worry about being respectful to God but is blunt about how he is feeling about the whole situation and seeks reassurance from God. He tells God that he is confused. “You say you know me by name and I have favour with you”, but I can’t see how that is working, now. Certainly, the behaviour of God’s people isn’t showing respect and compliance to God’s instructions for life. In exasperation, Moses utters the phrase, “Please show me your glory”. Surprisingly, God responds and seeks to protect Moses from the dramatic effect that seeing God, face to face, might create in a finite human being. God gives protection and creates an encounter that will maintain their relationship, but give Moses the glimpse of God which he desires. Alongside this glorious revelation God offers assurance in words: “my presence will go with you, and I will give you rest”. God also says, “there is a place by me where you can stand on the rock”. “There is a place by me” for every believer, God says. This is where you will know me and build my kingdom, in the here and now! God still offers a gracious and merciful presence and gracious and merciful dealing with everyday life!

This must have been a relief for Moses. After all, the people had broken so many of the rules he was carrying, written by God, to give to them. The bottom had fallen out of Moses' world. How would God respond? Fear and apprehension must have filled Moses heart as he conversed with God. Surprisingly, God responds positively and offers a future for Moses and God's people, based on their relationship created long ago, but God responded to what was happening right now and showers glory to Moses, to encourage him to continue with his relationship with God, and the people, whom Moses felt had embarrassed him, with their ungodly actions. "I, the Lord, never change". However, God is attentive to Moses, the people of God and our plight, whatever is happening! God responds with warmth, love and understanding. God wants us to see the glory that only comes from our relationship with God. God offers us protection and understands how fragile and vulnerable we are, as human beings. God holds us, and promises to be with us, and will continue to hold us safely, so that we can fulfil the potential God has put within each of us, so that we can live the revelation of God's glory to people who need to see that God goes before us, into every situation. May you know God's glory today, in our worship together, and in our hearts. Allow God to reveal love and purpose, each day. Amen

JINNY

Prayers

Gracious God, In your grace and mercy, we hold people we love before you. Thank you for the way you are upholding them and giving them your peace and hope. We pray for the increasing number of people who are attending foodbanks. Thank you for the love and care they receive from the volunteers they meet there. Fill them with the hope that this is temporary, and life will change for them, because you love them, as you love us. We pray for people who face uncertainty; in life, in relationships, in work, or lack of work, in debt; bereavement and sorrow and the inertia that all these trying situations bring. Shower them with love and blessing, giving confidence that you are with them all, always. In Jesus' name. Amen. Lord's Prayer. Remember people who are your hearts, today. Amen

JINNY

Hymn

To God be the glory,
great things He has done;
So loved He the world
that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life
an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate
that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.*

O perfect redemption,
the purchase of blood,
To every believer
the promise of God;
The vilest offender
who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus
a pardon receives.

Great things He has taught us,
great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing
through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher,
and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture,
when Jesus we see.

TONY

Prayer

Glorious, incredible God, we are overwhelmed by your attention to us, each day. Help us to share what we know of you, with one another and people who do not know you, yet. Show us your glory, every day. Amen.

Blessing

May God, revealed in Creator, Saviour and Spirit, hold us all in their hands of love, security and hope. Amen.