

Sunday, 13th September 2020

led by Rev David Leese

Alert: for the thanksgiving at the end of the service, it would be helpful to have a drink and something to eat ready.

Call to Worship:

“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his son who he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.” Hebrews: 1, 1 and 2.

Hymn: O God beyond all praising (tune: Thaxted)

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

Let us pray together

Thanks for God speaking to men and women
Many ways - beyond our numbering:
Various ways: Conversations, heart promptings,
words we agree and disagree with.
But all only in and through Jesus Christ, through
whom he made the universe.

Lord's Prayer.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours, now and for ever.
Amen.



Reading: Romans 8, 31-39

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^[k] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Address

Recent times given us an experience of separation.

Paul gives the things that COULD but DON'T separate us from God.

Life nor death/Angels and Demons/ Things present nor things to come

Neither height nor depth.

Exploration of what these might have meant and mean to us now:

Conclusion of scripture:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus.

Prayers of intercession and thanks giving:

Word of scripture is:

“Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures for ever.” Psalm 107

We give thanks for those **general** gifts of God:

Creation: Sense of Wonder: Life: Love

And the **particular** gifts of God in Christ:

Awareness of God's love, forgiveness in Christ, Christian assurance

Specific experiences we have known.

Hymn: Who is on the Lord's side? (HP 722)

Who is on the Lord's side?

Who will serve the King?

Who will be his helpers

Other lives to bring?

Who will leave the world's side?

Who will face the foe?

Who is on the Lord's side?

Who for him will go?

By thy call of mercy,
By thy grace divine,
We are on the Lord's side;
Saviour, we are thine.

Jesus, thou hast brought us,
Not with gold or gem,
But with thine own life-blood,
For thy diadem.

With thy blessing filling
Each who comes to thee,
Thou hast made us willing,
Thou has made us free.

By thy great redemption,
By thy grace divine,
We are on the Lord's side;
Saviour, we are thine.

Fierce may be the conflict,
Strong may be the foe;
But the King's own army
None can overthrow.

Round his standard ranging,
Victory is secure;
For his truth unchanging
Makes the triumph sure.

Joyfully enlisting,
By thy grace divine,
We are on the Lord's side;
Saviour, we are thine.

Chosen to be soldiers
In an alien land,
Chosen, called, and faithful,
For our Captain's band,

In the service royal
Let us not grow cold;

Let us be right loyal,
Noble, true, and bold.

Master, thou wilt keep us,
By thy grace divine,
Always on the Lord's side,
Saviour always thine.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-79)

Blessing