

**St Nicholas Church**  
**Sunday service**  
**8 May 2022**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (BASED ON PSALM 67)**

Leader: God has been gracious to us,  
God has blessed us,

**All: God has made his face to shine upon us.**

Leader: God reveals his way to all peoples,

**All: God guides all the nations on the earth.**

Leader: God judges everyone with equity.

**All: God shows his saving power everywhere.**

Leader: Let all the nations praise you, O God,

**All: Let us, your people, praise you**

**OPENING HYMN: SHINE JESUS SHINE**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaTwx0ehbvM>**

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness shining  
Jesus Light of the World shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us  
Shine on me shine on me

**Chorus**

**Shine Jesus shine**  
**Fill this land with the Father's glory**  
**Blaze Spirit blaze**  
**Set our hearts on fire**  
**Flow river flow**  
**Flood the nations with grace and mercy**  
**Send forth Your word**  
**Lord and let there be light**

Verse 2

Lord I come to Your awesome presence  
From the shadows into Your radiance  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness  
Search me try me consume all my darkness  
Shine on me shine on me

Verse 3

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story  
Shine on me shine on me

CCLI Song # 30426, Graham Kendrick© 1987 Make Way Music

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#### **PRAYER: THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS**

Leader: Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

**All: Lord, we come to you today - offering up our hearts, our lives, our talents, and our gifts in your service.**

Leader: This service that we perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

**All: We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you, Lord - to help others and be doers of the Word and not hearers only.**

Leader: I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent

him or her. The greatest among you will be your servant.

**All:** We serve not by trying to use our power but by allowing the Creator's power to work within us for our good - and for the good of others. And we move forward - not on our own authority but in the name of our King, Jesus - the greatest servant of all.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLE READING: Acts 1:1-8

#### CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

GOD'S MISSION (VIDEO)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_ufoebg3N4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_ufoebg3N4)

#### MESSAGE: GO

Our God is a missionary God. *Why is it important to See God is a Missionary God, as a God with a mission or as a God whose mission is now fulfilled in and through His church?*

Our missionary God reaches out and stretches His love out to the whole world, every tribe, every tongue, every people and every nation (Rev. 5:9). He asks us to join Him in His mission - the mission of God - the **mission dei**. We do not go because it is a good idea, or because we are better than others. We go because our missionary God and sends us out to share His Good News, in word and through our actions. He says,

**But when you receive the Holy Spirit - then go out as witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**

Notice that our Jerusalem is our neighbourhood (mission at our doorsteps - then a little further in Judea and

**Samaria (the difficult to reach areas) then to the ends of the world) - Churches have gone out or sent missionaries to the ends of the world - to Africa and Asia - and forget Jerusalem)**

The reminder and indeed challenge for us as a church - at local, national level is not to focus on ourselves and our survival - not to be limited by our own concerns and culture and worldview - but to embrace God's vision of going out and joining Him out there.

Our God is pro-active not reactive or passive. He reaches out to areas and people and groups that are yet to be reached with the gospel. **He is not a 'maintenance-oriented God, but the Lord of the harvest.**

Our mission - our going out is not just our duty - it is our destiny. It is a privilege to join the missionary God at work. This is why, he kept this message to end, before he was taken up to heaven. This is our chief and only business - **to share His good news in word and through our actions.** We call it evangelism, outreach or community action.. It is the business that God calls us to be involved in - and it must begin at our doorsteps - our Jerusalem.

It is also every Christians business - some of us are called to pray, some are called to give, some to perform acts of kindness, some are called to participate in the running and maintaining of church - some are called to receive or offer forgiveness - but all of us individually or as a group are called to be witnesses of Christ.

A witness as a man or woman who has come to know the forgiveness of sins, who has experienced the grace of God, who has the Holy Spirit living inside of them, should be, can be and is commanded by Christ to be a witness.

This is what it means to be a witness, to simply tell with our lips and with our lives what Jesus has done for you and what He will do for anyone who will put their trust in Him. Witnessing is, as we read in scriptures (1 Chronicles 16:24) 'declaring God's Our glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples'.

Witnesses are people who tell what they know. We are called to speak up, to speak out, to tell others what we have experienced and know to be true.

Lastly, our mission work must be done in hope. The farmer who sows seed, the baker who kneads leaven, must wait patiently for results. They must give up control. At the beginning, the outcome of their project may seem uncertain, unpromising, precarious. But the end result—large plants and many loaves — exceeds expectations. We join with God in sowing seeds of a new heaven and earth, and look ahead, in hope, to the harvest of a new creation. And sometimes we even get a glimpse of that new creation when our mission projects bear fruit.

**HYMN/OFFERING (LIVE SERVICE): HERE I AM LORD (I HE THE LORD OF SEE AND SKY)**

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

**CHORUS**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. ....

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. ....

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#### **PRAYER FOR OFFERINGS**

**ALL: God, you have given each of us gifts  
to use as members of the body of Christ.  
Here are our gifts - the work of our hands,  
our hearts, and our lives.  
We pray that they may help to bring  
the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world,  
today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.**

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. " (Prayer of Saint Francis)

Resurrecting Christ, you turned the world upside down and inside out when you revealed that there is life after death and love always has the last word. Therefore, we uplift our prayers for this broken and bruised world to

you so that you might transform them into sources of hope and healing.

Holy One, we yearn for the day when swords will be beaten into ploughshares, yet war and violence continue to plague many corners of this hurting world.

We pray for your children in Ukraine as the war wages on. Thousands of lives have been lost and more than three million people have fled from the country. We pray for those in neighbouring countries as the impact of the war spills across their borders. We think of Poland and Bulgaria as Russian officials have cut off their gas shipments.

We pray for your children in Sudan where more than 160 people have been killed, almost 100 injured, and thousands are fleeing the violence of tribal clashes in the Darfur region. We pray for your children in Ethiopia where the twenty Muslim worshippers were killed during an ambush in the Amhara region. Comfort your children whose lives are shaped by terror and tyranny. Loosen the grip hatred has on the hearts of those have been hardened by greed and trauma. Mend the wounds of all who are in pain.

Be with your children in Mexico as protests and outrage grow with the increase of violence and rising rate of disappearance of women and girls. It is reported that more than 24,000 women are missing nationwide. God, protect all those who are abused, fearful, or neglected. Be with those who are being trafficked, those who are trying to escape domestic violence, those who yearn for a way out, and those with no way out. May they know they are loved and not alone.

O Great Physician, we are hopeful even upon hearing the news that we are entering another phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet so many of us are exhausted and fed up not

knowing what will happen next. Infection rates are rising around the world, access to vaccines remains inequitable, and lockdowns continue in Shanghai, China. Grant us the space and time to grieve all that has been lost. Bring rest to the weary, healing to the sick, and relief to those who hurt.

O Merciful One, we hand over to you all the fragments and broken pieces of our lives that we don't know what to do with—ruptured relationships, broken families, words unsaid, truths unacknowledged. There is no limit to your forgiveness, so we give to you all that may feel beyond repair and restoration. Christ, you said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." May these prayers make a home within our hearts and inspire us to share that peace with the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN -  
TUNE: DUKE STREET**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs\\_x2EZvk4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs_x2EZvk4s)**

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does His successive journeys run  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall rise and set no more

2. People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name

3. Blessings abound where'er He reigns  
The prisoner leaps to lose his chains  
The weary find eternal rest  
And all the sons of want are blest

4. Let every creature rise and bring  
The highest honours to our King  
Angels descend with songs again



And earth repeats the loud Amen

CCLI Song # 3215351, Betty Carr Pulkingham | Isaac Watts  
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**BENEDICTION AND SUNG AMEN**

Now to him who by the power at work within us  
is able to accomplish abundantly far more than  
all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in  
the church and in Christ Jesus to all  
generations, forever and ever. Amen. -