

Quiet Time Evening Service
Giffnock Orchardhill Church 25th November 2020

Good evening and a very warm welcome to this interactive on-line service of prayer and reflection which is coming to you live from Orchardhill Church in Giffnock, Glasgow. If you would like to participate in a speaking part in the weeks ahead please do get in contact with me. You can use the email address quiet-time@orchardhill.org.uk which is also available to receive prayer requests which we would welcome and will use sensitively. Whether you are near or far, a regular or first-time attender we are joined together not only by technology but by the Spirit of the Risen Lord!

Opening Words

O Holy Child, Emmanuel,
Hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place,
Till all the earth declares your praise
And your great mercies own.
Now let your love be born in us,
O come Lord Jesus, come.

Let us pray:

Living Lord,
Through Jesus Christ you have taught us to pray,
'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done'.
We look forward to the day when that prayer is answered –
A day when there will be no more darkness, no more tears,
An end to mourning, and crying, and pain –
An end to death itself.
Sustain us, we pray, through all the uncertainties of our
fleeting lives,

With that sure and certain hope,
And help us live each day with the knowledge
That one day, you will be all, and in all.
Amen.

Our first reading is Revelation 21, verses 1 – 4:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Meditation:

One day we’ll see him again.
Don’t ask me when,
Don’t ask me how,
But one day

When this struggle is over –
All the pain,
All the grief,
All the fear,
All the doubt –
Then he will return to establish his kingdom.

I know that’s hard to believe sometimes.

When you keep on battling against the odds, and nothing
seems to change,
When you stand up for what is good, yet evil seems to
triumph,
When love is met with hatred,
Gentleness with violence,
Truth with falsehood –
Of course you start to wonder.

When you're faced with suffering,
Sickness,
Death.
When greed and corruption are rewarded with plenty
And justice is trampled underfoot:
When the poor get poorer
And the world goes by uncaring –
It's impossible not to ask yourself, day after day,
Why is it allowed to happen?

But he will come, I'm certain of it –
Not just because he promised to,
Though that's important, of course:
Not simply because he came back before,
Cheating death of it's victory, triumphing over the grave,
Though that's more vital still;
But because he HAS to return if anything is finally to make
sense,
If faith is to be anything more than a grand delusion.

And it IS more;
It HAS to be.
These goals we strive towards,

This life revealed in Christ,
The promises he made,
The truths he taught,
Everything he lived and died for –
They're real, I know that,
For they have turned my life around,
Sustained me through my darkest moments,
Lifted me beyond my highest thoughts,
And given me a joy that knows no bounds.

So though now we see but do not understand,
Though faith is sometimes hard and Christ seems far away,
We'll hold fast to hope,
Waiting for a time when there will be an end to tears and
pain and death,
A time when God will live among his people
In a new and beautiful kingdom;
And we shall see him again, our Lord Jesus Christ,
Crowned in glory and splendour,
King of kings,
Lord of Lords,
All in all,
Yet one with us!

Music – The Holy City, a religious Victorian ballad dating from 1892, with music by Michael Maybrick writing under the alias Stephen Adams, with lyrics by Frederic Weatherly.

Our second reading is from Revelation 22, verses 1 – 5 and 20.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray:

God of all hope, we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for

other

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Mighty God,

Beyond all space and time,

Greater than our minds can fully grasp,

Ruler over all that is and has been and shall be,

We worship you.

We worship you as the God,

Made known to us in Christ,

A God all good and wholly other,

And yet a God who loves us as a father loves his children.

We worship you as the God we experience within us,

The God who fires our imagination

And sets our hearts aflame through the Spirit of Christ.

Lord, we pray for our own church, our ministers Grant

and Gillian, our office bearers and our congregation and their

families as we support each other and help in the community.

Mighty God,

Help us to catch a sense of your greatness,

Opening our hearts and minds to your presence

Made known through Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Let us come together to say the 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

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and
evermore. Amen.