

*We welcome you to this shared time of worship.*

## **HYMN CH4 641**

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,**

and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
allelu, alluluia.

*Alleluia,  
alluluia.  
alluluia.  
alluluia!*

Ask and it shall be given unto you,  
seek and ye shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto  
you.  
allelu, alluluia.

You shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that proceeds from  
the mouth of the Lord.  
allelu, alluluia.

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## **PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER**

### **ALL AGE**

## **HYMN CH4 193**

**God is love: his the care,**

tending each, everywhere.  
God is love - all is there!  
Jesus came to show him,  
that we all might know him:

*Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
God is good!  
God is truth!  
God is beauty! Praise him!*

None can see God above;  
all must here learn to love,  
thus may we Godward move,  
finding him in others,  
sisters all, and brothers:

Jesus shared joy and pain,  
lived and died, rose again,  
rules our hearts, now as then;  
for he came to save us  
by the truth he gave us:

To our Lord praise we sing -  
light and life, friend and king,  
coming down love to bring,  
pattern for our duty,  
showing God in beauty:

Percy Dearmer From Enlarged Songs of Praise 1931 OUP  
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## **SCRIPTURE 1st Corinthians 1:26 - 2:5**

**B**rothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.

Amen

## **Mark 4:26-34**

**J**esus also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. As soon as the corn is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

## **HYMN CH4 473**

### **Thy kingdom come! - on bended knee**

the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom's day.

But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong;  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.

And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear;  
gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,  
proclaim the day is near:

The day in whose clear-shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned with  
might,  
and every hurt be healed;

When knowledge,  
hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad,  
the day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.

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## **SERMON**

### **HYMN MP 651**

#### **The kingdom of God is justice and joy;**

For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;  
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:  
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;  
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

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## NOTICES

### OFFERING PRAISE CH4 807

#### **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

praise Him, all creatures here below,  
praise Him above, you heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Thomas Ken (1637-1711) ccli licence 20979*

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND DEDICATION

### HYMN CH4 481

#### **Jesus is the name we honour;**

Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic Name above all other Names,  
the highest heaven and earth proclaim  
that Jesus is our God.

We will glorify,  
we will lift Him high,  
we will give Him honour and praise.  
We will glorify,  
we will lift Him high,  
we will give Him honour and praise.

Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
let all creation stand and sing  
that Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
and every eye at last will see  
that Jesus is our God.

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## BENEDICTION