



**Sunday 14th August 2022**  
**10.30am**

## **THEME: “Signs of the times”**

### **Music beforehand** (from 10.15am)

“How great is our God?,” “See what a morning!,” and “To God be the Glory” interspaced with words from Paul’s letter to the Romans.

### **Welcome**

### **Opening prayer (said together)**

**Lord, we come in prayer and praise to worship your Holy name.**

**We give you thanks that we can worship freely.**

**Open our hearts and minds to listen to your voice through music, readings, prayers and conversations.**

**May your Holy Spirit guide our thoughts and reflections.**

**Inspire us in our worship that we might understand more clearly your presence in our lives and go out to tell others. Amen**

### **Call to worship—Psalm 105:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim his greatness.

Let the whole world know what he has done.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.

Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.

## Hymn: 10,000 Reasons

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near, and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name  
Yes, I'll worship Your holy name  
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

Matt Redman and Steve Angrisano

## Prayer of adoration

Holy and faithful God we come before you in praise and adoration for all that you have done for us. Thank you for your endless generosity, patience and abundant love.

**We praise your Holy Name and bow before you now and always.**

Jesus our Lord and Saviour we are in awe and wonder of the sacrifice you made on the cross for each one of us. Our sins forgiven by that sacrifice and the hope

of salvation and eternal **life** living in your kingdom today.

**We praise your Holy Name and bow before you now and always.**

Holy Spirit, breath of life fill us with praise and worship. Sustain, guide and encourage us when we are weak.

**We praise your Holy Name and bow before you now and always.**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit we worship and adore you.**

## **Prayer of confession**

Lord our hearts and intentions are good, but we fall short of the example of Jesus.

Forgive us when we intend to listen to your voice but walk in our own way.

Forgive us when our words bring hurt, not comfort and hope

Forgive us when we turn away from injustice or avoid difficult challenges

Forgive us when we ignore the pleas of those in need because we don't know what to do.

**Lord forgive us**

May we hear Jesus' words of forgiveness and start afresh

**Amen**

## **Reading 1: Micah 7:4b-7 Israel's misery**

The day God visits you has come,  
the day your watchmen sound the alarm.

Now is the time of your confusion.

<sup>5</sup> Do not trust a neighbour;  
put no confidence in a friend.

Even with the woman who lies in your embrace  
guard the words of your lips.

<sup>6</sup> For a son dishonours his father,  
a daughter rises up against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—  
a man's enemies are the members of his own household.

<sup>7</sup> But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,  
I wait for God my Saviour; my God will hear me.

## Hymn: King of Kings

King of kings, majesty,  
God of heaven living in me.  
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,  
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End,  
all within me falls at your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow ;  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve,  
I live to serve your majesty.*

Earth and heaven worship you,  
Love eternal, faithful and true,  
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
brought this sinner near to your throne ;  
all within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow ...*

StF 331 Jarrod cooper

## Reading 2: Luke 12:49-56 (NIV) Not Peace but Division

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. <sup>55</sup> And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. <sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

## Talk: The signs of the times

Through Luke's Gospel, we hear Jesus giving his disciples and followers instructions about *how* to follow him. But in our reading today, Jesus is speaking of his own personal mission. We get a sense of Jesus showing human emotions – longing, distress, frustration and anger.

Jesus reminds the crowd he has come to bring the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. Then He talks of his death and resurrection. Luke writes that Jesus is “constrained” during this time of waiting. Jesus seems to long for his mission to be complete. Do we expect Jesus to share our humanity and have those human emotions that we might experience when we are “waiting” for something to happen? Emotions which can make us vulnerable.

Jesus knows what is to come, the injustice and the brutality he will have to go through before his resurrection to save God's people. It is His mission from His Father and must be completed. Jesus is challenging us to take up our crosses and follow him whatever the consequences and pain.

Then Jesus turns everything upside down. He tells the people he has come to bring division not peace! Surely the Messiah is the “Prince of Peace” who would save the people? Jesus is very specific about this, saying family members will turn against each other. Are His words harsh? Following Jesus will bring division and conflict. Our Christian values and views will set us apart from the secular world around us.

Then Jesus calls the crowd “hypocrites”! They can read the signs about the weather but not about the time they are living in. “Reading” the weather was important for a good harvest. But do you sense Jesus' frustration, even anger, with the crowd that they are concentrating on their own needs rather than seeking a fairer society? Jesus' message of love and justice for all brought him into conflict with the Jewish leaders. We are called to stand up for Christian values today whatever the risks.

So, what are the signs of our times? Do we only concentrate on the things that are directly relevant to us? Jesus was urging the crowd to respond to the events around them. What is He urging us to do today?

## Hymn: I the Lord of sea and sky

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 ?

*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.*

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 word to them.  
Whom shall I send ?

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

StF 663 Daniel L. Schutte (b. 1947)

## Prayers intercession

**Response:** Where there is division, **we pray for reconciliation and harmony**

Lord, we pray for the divisions and mistrust between nations. We pray for those nations at war for both sides that peace might be possible. We pray for those countries where the results of war have led to poverty and refugees.

### Response

Lord, we pray for the divisions between rich and poor. We pray for equality that all may have enough and live safely. We pray especially for those countries facing the disasters caused by climate change.

### Response

Lord, we pray for the divisions and mistrust between communities. We pray for justice to prevail and your word to be heard. We pray for tolerance between people to heal the tensions in communities.

### Response

Lord, we pray for the divisions and mistrust in families. We pray for those who are abused and harmed by people they should be able to trust. We pray for extended families where there is suspicion and mistrust.

**Response:** Where there is division, **we pray for reconciliation and harmony**

## Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Hymn: Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay:

*Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the Church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death hath lost its sting:

*Thine be the glory....*

No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee:  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above:

*Thine be the glory*

Stf 313 Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Tr Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

## Grace and blessing

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness,  
the grace of God the Father grant us peace, and  
the breath of Holy Spirit give us the strength to follow Jesus more closely day by  
day.

**Amen**

## Ongoing worship and pastoral care



For those worshipping online, as the service finishes we can join together in a time of fellowship via Zoom.

For those without internet access why not get on the phone to someone in similar circumstances to yourself and encourage and help each other as part of your ongoing worship and care of one another.