

Glen Park Gospel Church

Sunday Service, April 19th, 2020

Please join us in bringing our praise and worship to God the Father,
God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, One God.

Introit: R596.

He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord

Author/compiler unknown.

Invocation:

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. Psalm 63:1-3.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we come before you in Jesu's name. It is our common purpose to bring you our praise and worship. We join our hearts and voices in common praise this morning. We unite with others as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Your Son, confessing Him as our only redeemer and Saviour from sin and from hell and from the grave. We are thankful that by your grace you have won us to yourself through Him. All that we have and are is due to Him. We acknowledge our eternal indebtedness. We thank you, our Father, for the dearly won redemption that we enjoy freely this day. In His name we pray, Amen.

Our Father in Heaven we thank you that Jesus Christ is a risen living Saviour! Amen!

The Hymn R50.

1 Jesus, the very thought of thee

with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

2 O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!

3 No voice can sing, nor heart can frame,
nor can the memory find -
a sweeter sound than Thy blessed name:
O Saviour of man-kind.

4 But what to those who find? Ah, this
nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is,
none but his loved ones know.

5 Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be;
the love of Jesus what it is
None but His loved ones know.

Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 – 1153

Our first two hymns are by Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 – 1153, a French abbot and leader in Benedictine monasteries at a time when all the Christian world was Catholic. He founded an abbey at an isolated glen he called Claire Vallée, which morphed into Clairvaux. He helped end schism and heresy in the church, and also recruited for the Second Crusade. He had a love for and was committed to Jesus Christ as his Lord. He was the author of devotional hymns several of which are still popular today after some 1000 years, and are in most church hymn books.

A Bible Reading. In your own Bible read, Psalm 19.

The Hymn R35.

1

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

2

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
To them that seek Thee, Thou art good,
To them that find Thee, all in all!

3

Our restless spirits yearn for Thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad when Thy gracious smile we see,
Blest, when our faith can hold Thee fast.

Bernard of Clairvaux 1090 – 1153

Announcements:

This order of service was compiled by Chris Trinham. The message on a portion of God's word had been prepared by Darrell Reeve who by training is an Industrial Chemist and by occupation an Environmental Consultant who travels widely in Australia and overseas in that capacity. Darrell has a wide knowledge of God's word and is an able speaker at Glen Park. He has a deep love for Jesus Christ and is zealous of an opportunity to share Him with any who offer an opportunity. He is the third Glen Park speaker to provide us our written sermon. Laurie Maskell, Darrell Reeve and Chris Trinham are our three "in house" speakers.

These messages by nature, being written, are deliberately shorter than if they were presented orally, but they are essentially the same as we would have presented if we were able to meet together. We also enjoy a range of visiting speakers as opportunities offer, some locals from other fellowships, sometimes a missionary at liberty to share with a small group, sometimes a student in ministry training to whom it is a joy to offer a pulpit to try their wings. Sometimes we use a

recorded Convention speaker. For next week's message on line, we will look for a "visiting speaker" to simulate the regular range of our Glen Park ministry.

At the time of writing Darrell's surgery had been satisfactorily completed. Wendy is still in need of our prayers.

Let us bring our problems, hopes, joys and fears to the Lord in Prayer:

And as stated before you are at liberty to add to or supplement this pastoral prayer to suit your personal needs or circumstances.

Our Heavenly Father we come to you in Jesu's name and bring to you the needs and opportunities they present themselves to us this day for our prayer. Dear Lord how our people love to be included and we bring to you today our nucleus group, those who have slipped away over the years and our new friends overseas.

Lord we pray for the potential ministry this temporary medium of as written service may have. Dear Lord be pleased to bless it to your use of and in us to your glory. Please keep us united and wholly committed over this period of virus incursion. We thank you that reports are turning positive and that some see that it may be possible to lift some restrictions in Australia.

We pray for our leaders, those in the church that they may be filled with your Spirit to lead the work you have called them to do. That they may watch over us in love and wisdom. We pray for our National, State and Local leaders that they may be given the gift of wisdom in leadership, even those that do not have their trust firmly in you. We pray for such today that the Spirit of God will melt hearts and mould minds to bring them into conformity with the purposed of God. We thank you for the PM and some of his cabinet who are not ashamed to seek you publicly and we Amen their prayers.

We pray for our own people. There are those who have real needs. Darrell and Wendy both need your healing touch, also Joan, and others of us to a greater or lesser degree. We pray for Helen, Mary and their pending house move; Arthur and Jeanette, Laurie, Valmai and David, for Ann and her family, for Chris, Doreen, Philip and Eirene. Then there are our folk in care; Georgina, June, Muriel Smith and Betty Eaton and Rae. Betty Eaton, her caring daughter Sue and Doug and family. We also remember today Laura Estabrooks and Olga Bateman and their respective families in New Brunswick, Canada who have joined with us from afar.

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your family in Australia and abroad. Under the current conditions at home we ask that their income will not diminish, the evangelistic opportunities will not fail, that their ability to communicate upwards and outwards will be renewed. That their numbers will grow, that able bodied people will use this downturn period to sample and consider Christian mission.

We pray for our area responsibilities, for the hopes we have to help provide facility for young mums and their children as school restarts to give us a new avenue for ministry to young families, for the ministry in the schools, especially at Eltham North which we see as a place of responsibility for us; also we ask for an outreach that will replace our Easter evangelistic ministry of 'Good Friday in the Park' for this year. We think of the many people who come to the event, and some who make it their annual churching.

We pray too for those who are shut in by the current medical scare that they will take heed for their spiritual welfare, as well as their physical limitations. We pray for

those hospitalised and those bereaved by the virus that they will be comforted and their families drawn to you.

Dear Lord as we look at this prayer we see that we all have needs that run on. As we bring to you the desires of our hearts and the work of our hands Change takes place slowly and we have limited capacity. Lord send us some extra helpers we pray. Give us wisdom. Give us grace and strength. Give us the determination to trust you to guide and bless the intent of our heart and the enabling of our hands, we pray,
in Jesus name, Amen.

A short Bible Reading: Proverbs 30 :1-5 ESV

The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle. The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and worn out. Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man. I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Address:

God Revealed to Everyone! - Psalm 19

by Darrell Reeve

There is no such thing as an Atheist - a strong claim but it is based on Scriptures, including Psalm 19 and Romans 1.

There is much that can be said about Psalm 19, a hymn extolling the glory of God (one of King David's) but there are two main thoughts/ideas, simply and foundationally presented as absolute and totally encompassing proofs of God's existence, glory and power and righteousness - that leave **no room for atheism, unbelief, skepticism etc.** This leaves everyone as personally responsible and without excuse - Rom 1:-20

They are:

a) God's glory revealed in Creation.

b) God's glory revealed in His Word.

a) God's creatorial glory: 'The Gospel in the Stars!'

v1 - *The heavens*¹ **declare** the glory of God - not just to see and wonder about them but they actually *speak, announce, shout out* - you cannot look without asking, Who and How?
v1 -

*The firmament*² **shows** His handiwork - again, actively convinces everyone of His majesty - it is actively revealed to us via the firmament - it is so awesome - science is just starting to see how vast, complicated it all is (stars like the sands of the sea etc.) This is God's handiwork - intricately designed, massive in expanse, uniquely compatible in its maintenance etc.

v2 - Day unto day **utters** speech - the creation actually 'talks to us' - we hear through our spirits (that part of us that makes up the human trinity - body, soul and spirit - part of our Godlikeness)

v2 - Night unto night **shows** knowledge - direct and continuous communication from God to us.

v3 - There is *no speech or language where their **voice is not heard*** - this is an incredible claim - while we struggle to get the Gospel to every nation, people, tribe etc. - God has already done it via His wonderful creation. This claim covers every human being - can you believe it?

v4 - Their line *has **gone through all the earth*** (Romans 10:-18) and their **words gone** (by inference) to the end of the world. This would also apply to the New Testament apostles whose silent writings (epistles) have gone out to all ends of the earth in the power of the Holy Spirit. NB: All these actions - **declare, shows, utters, shows, voice heard, gone** - God is so active via creation, to show every person in every generation so much about His glory and power. The ever obvious heavens, the regular succession of nights and days, the enlightening and warming sun etc. - all teach everyone **so much about God**. And all this is just from the heavens and the firmament - there are heaps more and much is revealed through many other Scriptures (truly a vast topic).

b) God's Spoken/Written Glory

God did not just create an awesome universe and left us to wonder **but He gave us the 'Operations Manuals' too!** The next part of Psalm 19 refers to His marvelous communication methods and details for all of us to go to the next level - so we can be in harmony with both **God and His Creation - His communication (revelation) is all via 'The Word of God' and Jesus is that Word** (John 1:-1) - So, all those who enjoy the heavens can have them illuminated by Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness, and His oracles, ordinances, laws etc. 'Happy those hearts in which His Word, so pure, so perfect, so true, so righteous, so precious and pleasant, is hid; and in which its enlightening, instructing, converting, comforting, nourishing and healing influence is felt.' (quote ex Henry Cooke).

Verses 7-11 - summarize beautifully the Lord's various communication techniques. We can get 'hung up' about the differences between the specific words used here - **law, testimony, statutes, commandment, fear, judgments, but** the effects (end results) of them show the keys to a purposeful, God pleasing life for every believer:

The Law of the Lord is perfect → **converting** (or reviving) **the soul**

The **Testimony** of the Lord is sure (reliable, certain) → **making wise the simple**
- no PhD required

The **Statutes** of the Lord are right (to make straight, smooth, upright) → **rejoicing the heart**

The **Commandment** of the Lord is pure (God cannot communicate in any other way because He is holy and pure) → **enlightening the eyes**

The **Fear**³ of the Lord (see note below) is clean → **enduring forever**.

The **Judgments** of the Lord are true and righteous altogether
(to be greatly desired) → **brings great reward**.

Tell me, what is wrong with **soul conversion, wisdom, rejoicing, enlightenment, endurance and great reward?** It seems to be **ideal**, (the answers to Solomon's

dilemma in Ecclesiastes) the answers to all of our problems and concerns. Look/read at Psalm 119:1-16. note the use again of the words: **law, testimonies, commandment/s, precepts, statutes, judgments** - some mentioned twice or more. All of God's communication methods here are good and worthy:

His Law is perfect;
His Testimony is sure;
His Statutes are right;
His Commandment is pure;
His Fear is clean;
His Judgments are true and righteous.

Which-ever method God uses for you and me at any point in time, be assured and absolutely confident that they are very, very good for us - the very best on offer and all for the long term. There are no possibilities for any falsehood, bribery, injustice, favouritism - it is all fair and righteous. Unlike our world today, isn't it good to be on the Lord's side! All these attributes of God far surpass ***much, fine gold*** and are ***sweeter than honey and the honey comb***. v10

c) Update on Psalm 19

What we have considered so far is from King David's point of view (with prophetic implications for us today as well). He only had the Law and Israel's history with the Lord up until his own time.

But now, centuries later, we have **so much more**: - the remainder of the Old Testament - the complete New Testament and if that is not enough; add to it all the fulfillments of Christ from the Old Testament, plus His perfect life/teachings/miracles etc. here on earth, plus His death/resurrection/ascension/glorification, plus the indwelling Holy Spirit plus all the promises (yes and amen), plus a glorious future promised, plus, plus, plus! And guess what? None of these extras ever contradicted or changed what we have seen already in Psalm 19. God is consistent - He who made us and knows what is best for us.

(Perhaps we need to realize this more and more as we see all the compromising changes occurring in our societies and in our churches too - God is always right and fair - *'I am the Lord I change not!'*)

The more we look into all this blessed sea of evidence of creation and glory of God's communications, the more we shall see the need for us to come in deep humiliation before God, on account of the number and strength of our secret corruptions - see v12 & 13. 'Cleanse me from secret faults' - v12 - make me innocent, free, guiltless. Only Christ, the truly upright and innocent substitute can do this for us - which He did at Calvary - **"the Great Creator, became my Saviour and all the God's fullness dwells in Him"** - Colossians 1. All of us can only be like Job and have reason to be ashamed and repent in dust and ashes. See Job 42:-5 & 6

d) Challenge

In view of His great creatorial glory which we see in awe every day and His communicational glory which we must/should meditate on every day and our resulting, complete dependence on Him and His attributes - our prayer should be like v14 - 'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O

Lord, my strength and my redeemer’.

ENDNOTES:

1. The heavens in this sense, the far reaches of space. 2. For firmament “the sky above” 3. Fear of the Lord v9 - Fear = reverential trust with hatred of evil - In the context of Psalm 19, it refers to a holy respect for the Lord’s instructions and commandments.

Hymn R538.

Wonderful Words of Life

1. Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life!
Let me more of their beauty see, Wonderful words of life!
Words of life and beauty, Teach me faith and duty!

Refrain:

Beautiful words! Wonderful words, Wonderful words of life!
Beautiful words! Wonderful words, Wonderful words of life!

2. Christ the blessed One gives to all Wonderful words of life!
Sinner list to the loving call, Wonderful words of life!
All so freely given, Wooing us to heaven!
3. Sweetly echo the gospel call, Wonderful words of life!
Offer pardon and peace to all, Wonderful words of life!
Jesus only Saviour, Sanctify for ever!

Philip P Bliss

Benediction:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen.

Here is a new verse to ‘This is my Father’s world’:

This is God’s holy word. The Spirit’s word to me.
Each morning bright, some new insight, Declares His will for me.
This is my Father’s word. His message is so clear
On every page in every age. His grace and wisdom heard.