

Glen Park Gospel Church

Sunday Service, April 26th, 2020

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

Before we begin, Some Announcements: (All Churches have them)

Today's order of service was compiled primarily by Laurie Maskell. It is a communion service. Please have ready a small portion of bread for each one present, and a small amount of fluid, a wine or fruit juice, even tap water in glasses. We regularly hold a communion service on the second and fourth Sundays.

The message on a portion of God's word is a reflection on a message by Harry Ironside in the early 1930's at the Moody Memorial Church of Chicago from stenographically recorded and published work. In addition there is access to a selection of voice messages by him for your choice. This will become clear as we proceed. Please follow the instructions in place. At Glen Park we seek to invite visiting speakers to our pulpit, often a visiting missionary if available, from a student or a man from a local church. Then there are two church and missions prayer meetings each month, on the first and third Tuesday evenings and two Bible Study evenings on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

With our building being closed over recent weeks, there is a need for some tidy-up and general maintenance. We will keep you informed.

Coralie was taken ill with flu-like symptoms later in the week. And an ambulance was called, but testing showed the problem to be something more manageable than a Covid19 virus. A Get Well prayer for Coralie.

We have registered an excess use of town water at our meter and have reviewed the issue with a local plumber and water authority. The probable reason is the ageing toilet cisterns not self-cancelling after use and we are considering replacements. This analysis is to be confirmed.

Welcome:

Good morning everyone, welcome to our Sunday Service. It is a little strange doing it this way as I am not able to give you an effective smile of welcome but maybe since my face is somewhat hidden anyway you are not missing so much after all.

Choosing a pitch convenient to yourself or to your small group let us sing the (slightly changed) words;

Introit:

"Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

Please reach out and touch us and help us to love You.

Open our ears, Lord and help us to listen.

May our minds focus on Your Word this day."

Invocation:

Yes, Lord, we want the focus of this service to be upon You. We thank You that the barrier preventing us from drawing near to You was removed nearly 2000 years ago.

We want to learn more of You today, to grow closer to Your likeness. Our desire is that others be able to see Your character in us as we live and work together as a church and as we go about our lives in the wider community. We pray this in that precious Name of Jesus, Amen.

The Hymn of Praise, No. B 4.

If we want to be more like Him we had better take a look at what He is like; does that make sense? Now the hymn writers write under the constraints of metre and rhyming so the accuracy of the pictures they write are sometimes a little lacking, especially when writing of something that is difficult to express anyway, but I think the hymn number 4, does not do too badly. Instead of singing I would like us to read and think about each work of our God. Some works are completed, others are ongoing.

Father of Heaven

Robert Robinson, 1774.

- 1 Father in Heaven, whose love profound
A ransom for our souls hath found,
Be-fore Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy pardoning love extend.
- 2 Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
Our prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy saving grace extend.
- 3 Eternal Spirit, by Whose breath
The soul is raised from sin and death
Be-fore Thy throne we sinners bend;
To us Thy quickening power extend .
- 4 Jehovah Father Spirit, Son -
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,
Before Thy throne we sinners bend;
Grace, pardon, life to us extend.

Communion Service.

We now incorporate a Communion Service into our morning Worship time. It is that memorial that the Lord Jesus introduced to the Disciples on the evening of his betrayal, trial, crucifixion and His death.

One work of the Lord Jesus which is completed is His paying the price for our disobedience.

Ask God's blessing on the elements you have prepared now.
From Matthew 26, we start at verse 20;

When it was evening, Jesus was reclining at table with the twelve disciples and as they were eating He said, Solemnly I say to you, one of you will betray Me. The disciples were distressed and began to say to Him one after the other.

Surely it cannot be I, Lord?

Jesus replied, He who has dipped his hand in the same dish with Me will betray Me. The Son of man is going as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed. It would have been better for that man if he had never been born.

Judas the betrayer said to Him, Surely it is not I, Master?

Jesus said to him, You have said it.

Have you ever been in an uncomfortable spot and wished you could just sink through the floor? I think Judas must have felt like that now. The eyes of all were upon him. He knew that there was no escape if they tried to do anything to him. Did he recognise that even now the safest place for him (as for us) was to stay close to Jesus? Was he even now under the protection of Jesus? The Love of Jesus never fading? If we are apart it is we who chose to move away.

As they were eating Jesus took bread, and praising God gave thanks and asked Him to bless it to their use, and when He had broken it He gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat, for this is My body.

Eat of the bread now.

He took a cup, and, when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it all of you for this is My blood of the new covenant which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I say to you, I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink with you new wine in My Father's kingdom.

Drink the cup now.

Prayer:

"Lord, we thank You for this simple memorial that we have shared. We pray that we will indeed continually choose to remain close to You and become more in Your image daily. We pray that we may be as soft clay in Your hands and never become too hardened in our ways for You to be able to make the changes needed."

I suggest that you continue for a few minutes from here and bring each other, our missionaries and our leaders at the National and State level before the Lord. Also be sure to include some thanksgiving for known answers and blessings. You may choose to follow or select from the following list You are at liberty to add to or supplement this pastoral prayer to suit your personal needs.

The prayers of the Church - the List:

Our Heavenly Father we approach you in Jesus name, bringing to you the needs, and our praise and joys this day in this our prayer. Lord, how our people love to be included and we bring our nucleus group to you today, those who have gone into care, our mission responsibilities as well as our outreach possibilities, our association churches and friends afar.

Lord we pray for you to use the potential ministry of this temporary medium of as written service may have. Dear Lord be pleased to bless it is very simple, but then there are some benefits too as it can be printed and shared around. It can be picked

and read later on and even carried about. Dear Lord please use it and in us to your glory we pray. 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 purposes of God. We thank you for a PM who openly trusts and serves you, and that some of his cabinet are likeminded.

We pray for our own people. There are those who have real needs. Darrell and Wendy still need your healing touch, also Joan, Coralie, especially Coralie just now. And Eirene and others of us to a greater or lesser degree. We pray for Helen, Mary and the decisions that they are making about their pending house move; Arthur and Jeanette, Laurie, Valmai and David, for Ann and her family, for Chris, Doreen, and Philip. Then there are our folk in care ; Georgina, June, Muriel Smith and Rae. Betty Eaton, who is in the care of daughter Sue and Doug and family. We also remember today Laura Estabrooks and Olga Bateman and their respective families in New Brunswick, Canada We pray especially for their sister Laurina who, at age 63 is due for a double mastectomy on the 29th.

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your family in Australia and abroad. Under the present financial stress at home we ask that their income will not diminish, that 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. We pray again for the hopes we have to provide a facility for young mums and their children as school restarts: 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, we bring to you the desires of our hearts and the work of our hands. In the final analysis our work is your work and your ultimate responsibility for we remember what Jesus said to the people of His day, "This is the work of God, that you believe on Him who You have sent." We are your people. This is your work and we acknowledge our full dependence on you.

in Jesus name, Amen.

Hymn No 310

I am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus

- 1 I am trust - Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting on - ly Thee!
Trust - ing Thee for full sal - vat - ion, Great and free.
- 2 I am trust - Thee for clean - sing In the crim - son flood;
Trusting Thee to make me ho - ly. By Thy blood
- 3 I am trust - Thee, Lord Jesus, Never let me fall;
I am trusting Thee for ev - er, And for all.

Francis R. Havergal 1836 - 1879

Our Bible Reading for Today.

I have chosen to read from Psalm 21.

Question: Who is the king referred to? Is it David as some Bibles suggest?
Or is it to Jesus our Lord?

“The King shall joy in Your strength O Lord, and in Your salvation how greatly shall He rejoice.

You have given Him His heart's desire, You have not withheld the request of His lips.
Selah! (meaning “Think of that!”)

You send blessings of good things to meet Him. You set a crown of pure gold upon His head.

He asked life of You and You gave it to Him, long life for ever and evermore.

His glory is great because of Your aid. Splendour and majesty You bestow upon Him
for You make Him to be blessed and a blessing for ever. You make Him exceedingly
glad with the joy of Your presence.

The King relies on and is confident in the Lord and through the mercy and steadfast
Love of the Most High He will never be moved.

Your hand shall find all your enemies; Your right hand shall find all those who hate
You.

You will make them as if in a blazing oven in the time of Your anger. The Lord will
swallow them up in His wrath and the fire will utterly destroy them.

Their offspring You will destroy from the earth and their sons from the children of
men

for they planned evil against You. They conceived a mischievous plot which they are
not able to perform

for You will make them turn their back when You aim Your bow at their faces.

Be exalted, Lord, in Your strength. We will sing and praise Your power.”

That sounds like a good idea to me so let us join in singing -

Hymn number 107. **Rejoice The Lord is King!**

Rejoice the Lord is King!

1. Re - joice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King a - dore!
Mor - tals, give thanks and sing
And tri - umph ev - er - more.

Chorus

Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Re - joice, again I say, re - joice!
Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice!
Re - joice, again I say, re - joice!

2. The Lord, the Sav - iour, reigns,
The God of truth and love.
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat a - bove.
3. His kingdom can - not fail;
He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell
To Christ the Lord are giv'n.

Charles Wesley 1707 - 1788

The Hymn R310.

- 1 I am trust - Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting on - ly Thee!
Trust - ing Thee for full sal - vat - ion, Great and free.
- 2 I am trust - Thee for clean - sing In the crim - son flood;
Trusting Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood
- 3 I am trust - Thee, Lord Jesus, Never let me fall;
I am trusting Thee for ev - er, And for all.

Frances Havergal 1837-1879.

Prayer before the message:

Loving Father, we pray that You would ready our minds to learn what You would have us to learn from the message that has been prepared for us this morning. Bring to our remembrance other passages of Your Word which may help to show further light into our minds we pray in Jesus Name

Address 1:

How I Met up with Harry Ironside, - and what he did for me!

He was a great help to me. A strange thought because this was in the year 1958 and he had been dead for seven years. But, I met him, in the form of one of his books. And he spoke very plainly about my shortcomings of which I have many. Let me explain.

I was born into a Christian family and my parents were very devout people. I was taught to trust in Jesus at a very young age and I accepted Him and grew in my faith. I found Him to be a prayer answering God. My father had a good knowledge of God's word, but was hung up on Bible prophecy. It occupied a great deal of his time, thoughts and conversation. Consequently my knowledge of Bible basics leaned toward things to come. Important as it is, especially as we see the day approaching, a good solid knowledge of God's word sets us up to meet the challenges of life and death. The more we truly know of God's word, the more we can live to please Him.

That year was 1958 and I went to Bible College, and it was there that I discovered my basic knowledge and behaviour deficit. How could I rectify this lack, for I was mixing with young men some of whom were well ahead of me in Bible knowledge. So I went to the local Christian book store and asked for their help. They set me up with one of Harry's books, his exposition of Ephesians. They could not have done better. His writing is simple, full of illustration, and very understandable. Ephesians covers the basics, the scope of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, and our response to Him and our responsibility to one another in the body of Christ. Today I would like to share with you from that same book which lies open on the table before me, a sample of my adventure, sixty two years ago, in the word of God.

Harry Ironside is talking about the first six verses of Ephesians chapter four. It is entitled in my Bible "Unity in the Body of Christ." It is probably similar in yours. It applies equally to all believers. You might care to review it before we start. He calls it, 'The Walk Worthy of our Calling. The index numbers are the page numbers in this edition of his book, from which I am quoting to you. If you have it look them up and read his comments.

"Wherever grace rules the soul, 'I command' is changed to 'I beseech.' You do not find the apostle lording it over the faith of the people of God," he says 'but graciously, tenderly pleading with them'¹⁶⁷. They needed no urging to heed Paul because he had led them to Christ, and they enjoyed a tender relationship with one another. But here he urges them to be worthy of Christ's calling, which the older version calls our 'vocation'. This vocation is not a vacation. There is no holiday from Godly living. Vocation is a good word. One dictionary defines it as 'a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation' as a Christian it defines the people we are by the things we do in and for our community. Because we have been redeemed by His precious blood and are now a member of His body, a member of His family and I am to live in a manner worthy of Him. This status ought to work itself out in our relationship with others.

Verse two speaks to us about qualities that ought to be in us all. Humility or Lowliness. Meekness or gentleness. Longsuffering or patience. Bearing or forbearing one another in love. Of them Harry Ironside says, "The more I carefully examined every expression in English and in Greek, the more humiliated and ashamed before God I was, as I realised how far short I have often come - I am afraid I always come - from living out what we have here."¹⁶⁸

He tells of a young minister who arose to address a Minister's Conference, "I am against education. I don't believe in education. I don't profess to know nothing about literature or anything of that kind. I am just an ignorant man, but the Lord has taken me up and is using me . . . I am proud to be just as I am." Then an old preacher arose and said, "Do I understand that our dear young brother is proud of his ignorance? If so I must say that our young brother has much to be proud of."¹⁶⁹ We must remember that Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest for your souls."

Some people think that it is wrong to study God's word in a disciplined, structured way, ensuring a correct understanding of the Bible, knowing the how and why we have what God in His wisdom and provision has put into our hands. It is certainly wrong to get proud and conceited about it. A tradesman must learn to correctly use his tools and use them for the benefit and blessing of his community. It is certainly wrong to get conceited about it. So it is with the word of God.

Longsuffering or patience is another prominent word. It puts us in our place. It means, says Harry, "to endure with an unruffled temper."¹⁷⁰ I don't know about you but it speaks to me when people know better, or think they do, and I have to let them have their way

Harry tells us of a friend, "a little odd German brother, whose name was George, Sometimes he would fly off and lose his temper, but it always brought him back to earth if one looked at him quietly and said, 'Is that the old George or the new George talking?' In a moment the tears would come and, even though he has been gone thirty years I can hear him say, 'That's the old George; new George would neffer behaff like that. I must take the old George and inflict punishment upon him. He has no right to behaff like that.'¹⁷⁰

Yes the old nature is quick to take offence, quick to flare up if unappreciated, but the new nature just bows in meekness and lets the waves and billows pass over it, and is undisturbed thereby."¹⁷¹

Paul's last word is 'forbearing'. It is also found in Colossians 3:13 where it is linked with forgiveness, especially forgiveness based upon Christ's forgiveness of us. This can be a difficult topic. It can be so easily misunderstood. I was called to pastor a Church which had been torn by inflated feelings. The Elders were concerned about a number of relationships in my time, some of which the people resolved for themselves by the grace of God. But there was one relationship, Garry and Larry, we shall call them. They are both now with the Lord. Larry was a man full of good ideas, especially things for other people to do and he stood on the toes of Garry. Garry avoided Larry like the Coronavirus plague. It seemed obvious to everyone. He had been hurt and didn't want to be hurt again. Popular Interpretation: Garry detests Larry and this is a bad witness. So in time I went to Garry to talk it over with him. He explained to me, 'I don't hate Larry at all, I simply make myself a small target.' How could I argue with that?

Well, I didn't. Harry Ironside gives us his meaning for forbearance. He says, "Forbearance simply means 'to put up with.'" I can well remember as a youngster when on a Sunday morning service I found things boring and over my head, I would shrink down in my seat and hide behind the lady in the seat in front. That is not putting up with others faults, it is avoidance. There is a great difference between forbearance and avoidance. Think of the world response to Corona virus. We are told to avoid it by taking measures to isolate ourselves. But Harry Ironside is not talking about disease control. He is speaking about social relationships in the body of Christ. Here we want people to be infected with the love of God in Jesus Christ. And the best way they can become contagious is to catch it from us.

Taking the matter a little further Harry Ironside gives us his own translation of the full passage. It can be helpful. We can use it to refine our attitudes toward others. He says, "With all modesty and humbleness of spirit, with unruffled temper, lovingly put(ting) up with all that is disagreeable in other people." That he says, 'is a literal rendering of the original. That is the Spirit of Christ.' If all our people practice this attitude in our daily lives, at home especially, at work or school, in living with the foibles of our neighbours, sporting teams, our church fellowship, etc, we will practice walking in the spirit of Christ. Now what Harry Ironside suggests we do is the most difficult thing in the world. But it is possible if we are walking in the Spirit, and impossible if we are not, at least long term, because the flesh cannot keep up the pretence. It is no problem though for the holy Spirit to be spiritual, for it is His nature.

Application

Some one will ask themselves or maybe ask some close friend or a counsellor, "But have I received the Holy Spirit?" Paul answers that question in verse seven when he says, 'unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.' No one is omitted who has come in faith to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. No one. Who am I that God should give to me and not you? No not at all. God loves all His children.

It is up to us to make the most of that which we have received, continually expanding and sharing with others, not my looking with envious eyes at them. We do not all have the same measure of Heaven's grace. This is quite deliberate. God is not running an assembly line in a believer factory. Believe it or not He knows what He is doing. He is God. All the attributes of God are His, this should not need to be said: but we must remember it. His omnipresence - He is everywhere. His omniscience - He has perfect knowledge. His omnipotence - He is all powerful. All these attributes come into full play at the application of His benevolence to His children. Psalm 68 applies here. All God's blessings are according to His prophetic word. God always keeps His promises. God gives to me all that I need according to His plan for my life. God gives to you all that you need to fulfil His plan for your life. We ought to, considering, the place where he put us, trust Him and get on with the things He has already given us to do.

Take it Further.

Harry Ironsides books are generally out of print but can be had from various second hand book stores. Try <https://www.biblio.com.au> or for example Canada

www.biblio.com Others would also be available through their overseas sellers
Average price expect to pay about \$13 or 14 + p&p. AUD

Now, listen to the voice of Harry Ironside on line.

https://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?speakeronly=true&currsection=sermonsspeaker&keyword=Harry_A._Ironside

If your PDF reader won't allow the link to be followed, copy the above link into your web browser. You may need to copy from the warning message rather than from the Sunday service text.

From here choose a topic you think will speak to your heart. You will see how simple his messages were. And his book is just like it.

Then after you have listened to Harry Ironside, our concluding hymn is:

May the Mind of Christ , My Saviour R257

May the mind of Christ our Sav - iour, Live in me from day to day,
By His love and power con - trol - ing, All I do and say.

May the word of God dwell rich - ly. In my heart from hour to hour.
So that all may see I tri - umph. Only through His power.

May the peace of God my Fat - her, Rule my life in every - thing.
That I may be calm to com-fort Sick and sor - row - ing.

May the love of Je - sus fill me, As the wa - ters fill the sea.
Him ex - hal - ting, self a-bat - ing - This is vic - to - ry.

May I run the race be - fore me, Strong and brave to face the foe.
Look - ing on - ly un - to Je - sus. As I on - ward go.

May His beau - ty rest up - on me, as I seek the lost to win.
And may they for - get the chan - nel, see - ing on - ly Him.

Kate Wilkinson 1859 - 1928.

Benediction:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.