

Glen Park Gospel Church
Sunday 10th May 2020.

Invocation:

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Psalm 42:1&2a.

Introit: Let the Beauty of Jesus Been Seen in Me. R606

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
O Thou Spirit divine, All my nature refine
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

Albert Osborn 20C

Welcome:

Good morning everyone, welcome to our Sunday Service. With the Government beginning to lighten our lock down restrictions we see just a glimmer of hope that we will soon be able to return to the little Church on the hill and the need for these papers will be past. We will know more tomorrow. But today we are to enjoy meeting the Lord at the Communion table, we will consider the comfort and consideration of our mother's sacrificial love, and we look to words of encouragement and instruction from God's Holy word. Thank you for stopping to join with us. Let us enjoy our companionship at a distance while we still can.

The music was selected by Doreen. I am only sorry that you cannot hear her sing them just now. Music has been her ministry all these years.

Hymn No B33. For the Beauty of the Earth.

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

For thy Church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Off'ring up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

Folliott S. Pierpont. 1835-1917

Bible Reading: In your Bible Read Luke 22: 140-020.

Hymn: Here O my Lord B315

Here O my Lord, I see Thee face to face:
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand th' eternal grace
And all my helplessness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God.
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear
The feast though not the love is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove but Thou are here
Nearer than ever still my Shield and Sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet passing, points to the glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy.
The Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Horatius Bonar 1818-1889.

Communion Service and a Mother's Day Recognition.

This morning we combine these two themes. How can you do that, you ask? Well, we can do it for two reasons. The first is that we have a good opportunity we just cannot miss. The second is that Jesus had a mother. His mother was there from His birth to His death. There was a constant relationship

His mother was there at his early visit to the temple when they had to double back to find Him after three days in the temple with the doctors. Luke 2:45-51.

"Son why have you treated us so. Behold your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." We can see that the tension had not subsided. Note his answer, correcting her misconception of the episode. "Did you not know that I must be in *my Father's* house." Remember. My Father is not Joseph. The capitalisation of names is not in the originals, but are the work of the translators. However they emphasise the point. Jesus recognised His heavenly Father first and Joseph in his subject rank. Does this speak of some distancing between Jesus and His mother? However he kept in submission to them.

Second is the wedding at Cana in Galilee. John 2:1-12. Do you remember his retort to her telling Him of their lack. It seems that He was in the habit of solving their problems. "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Preachers are often seeking to soften the sentence that distances Him from common need. Joseph is no longer present in the records. Perhaps Mary was a widow.

Third. Mark 3:13-31-35 When fully engaged in His ministry his family came seeking some of His attention and He seemed to Snub them. The starkness of Jesus's attitude makes many of us stop and think. His siblings were obviously more free.

Fourth Jesus gives us His rationale for His responses. In life, in faith in ministry there is a time and place for everything. In another context, the principle remains true. At Matthew 19:4&5 Jesus says, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? The parent-child relationship changes with the child's maturity.

Fifth. Jesus did not outgrow the tenderness of his respect or ultimate responsibility for Mary, a widow. Immediately before John records the death of Jesus, he tells of His thought for His mother. "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" John 19:26&27. So many points of interest and instruction flow from this group of texts.

But this is also a communion table. It is time also remember His eternal provision for us in His flesh and blood. Before He had time and opportunity to consider Mary's welfare, He considered yours and mine. He gathered His little group around Him and gave them a new meaning to the common board from which they regularly ate.

Read Luke 22:14-19. Eat the bread at this point.
Read Luke 22:20. Drink your cup at this point.

This bread reminds us of His broken body. This cup reminds us of His shed blood. These emblems are also the symbols of our service to Him as we serve others. His relationship with His widowed mother tells us of our relationship with our world. There is a time and place for everything in the life of discipleship.

The prayers of the Church - the List:

Our Heavenly Father we come you in Jesus name, with the needs, the praise and joys in this moment of prayer. Lord we bring to you our people this day despite the limitations a written service may have. Dear Lord be pleased to use it and in us to your glory we pray. Please keep us united and wholly committed over this down time, your work here and in many places financially buoyant from the needs continue.

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 give selfless leadership, some do not have their trust firmly in you. We pray for such today that the Spirit of God will touch hearts and reset their minds to bring them into keeping with your purposes. We thank you for a Scott Morrison who openly trusts and serves you, and also some members of his cabinet who are likeminded. Keep them humble and alert to the people's needs. Fend off their opposition who are not genuinely interested in the needs of the people.

We pray for our own people. Those in need. Can we mention them by name Darrell and Wendy, for Joan, Coralie and Eirene. We pray for Helen, Mary and the for Arthur and Jeanette, for 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 our people in Canada for Laura, Olga, for special recovery healing for Laurina. For their respective families in New Brunswick, Canada.

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your interests in Australia and overseas. May their income be sure, and that ministry opportunities will not fail, Help them to be resourceful, and your people be aware of the opportunities, as Paul used to pray that a door of opportunity be opened to them, that their strength and ability will be renewed. We pray for our outreach responsibilities. Help us find a niche for ministry to our area. May our eyes be opened to opportunity. Give us the nerve to take them we ask.

We pray too for those who are shut in by the current medical scare. We pray that people will indeed become aware of their mortality, and not be lulled into complacency. 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 count this work is your work and we are your ultimate responsibility for we trust you to lead and empower as the opportunities arise. We trust in you.

in Jesus name, Amen.

Bible Reading

In your own Bible please read Hebrews 9:24-28

The Three Appearances of Jesus

²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. ²⁵Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

²⁷Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgement, ²⁸so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The word 'appear' occurs three times in these verses in the ESV, NIV, KJV and others. They are three separate words in the original with their own meanings which tend to get lost in our English translations by being blurred into the one word, 'appear.' It will be a blessing to us to separate to see just what it is that Jesus has done, not just for us, but first to uphold the integrity of His holiness in the making of His creation. So take up your Bible and see what God has in store for you.

We put these words into the order they were completed. So let's begin at:

:26 HE APPEARED ONCE TO TAKE AWAY SIN.

When we examine at the text of the original, 'appeared' means to be manifested, to show, to demonstrate, to exhibit the reality of - in this instance, the absolute sufficiency of the one sacrifice of Jesus. Especially so when we consider that the Jewish altar was burning constantly to keep up with the demand for substitutionary animal blood. What does it mean? Things are not always what we first assume, or what they appear to be to us. We need cold hard fact.

Consider this amusing story of the captain of a battleship which was sailing one dark night, close to land. The lookout reported some lights dead ahead. The captain of the ship peered into the darkness and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message "Alter your course 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am Jones, seaman third class."

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am a battleship."

Then the reply came "Alter your course 10 degrees north--I am a lighthouse." Now that is a funny little story. But it illustrates illusion and reality. Most religious dogma world wide is to a greater or lesser degree illusion- another word for error. The Devil is a master of illusion. "How do we get things so wrong?"

Ephesians 5:13 But all things *become visible* when they are exposed by the light, for everything that *becomes visible* by glowing (G5319) is light.

1. '*The foundation of the world,*' World is from Kosmos. It means the creation of physical world.

2. '*The end of the world.*' It does not mean the end of it all. The key here is the word world in the AV. It is for example, given in the NASB as the 'culmination,' the climax of the ages, in particular the ages of Israel's development in the purposes of God. It is not the end of all time. Where it all comes together in this case, it is Israel's calling as a kingdom of priests to God. Read Exodus 19:6 & 1 Peter 2:9. The prophecies, the callings, the gifts and appointments, the priesthood as foreshadowed by Melchisedec; the substitutionary sacrifices, the laws and commandments, the types and symbols that all progressively unfolded the purposes of God, pointed to one and only one objective- Calvary! Jesu's sacrifice! That was the end of the ages, that was their intended one main objective, to identify and magnify Jesus - God's only son, and His sacrificial death bringing about the reconciliation of mankind to God, through Israel's priesthood. Exodus 19:6. It has not yet happened. When it does Jesus will come and establish His Kingdom with His people in His train. He will gather together such saints as remain on earth, to be one glorious kingdom.

Let me illustrate, I drive a Volkswagen Golf. Doreen and I hired a cheap car in London. Thrifty didn't have one available and asked if I would accept a Golf instead. I found it so comfortable that I decided to buy one. We did. It was built in 2005 and we purchased it in 2007. It has served us well. The car was fully finished in 2006, That was the end of it - the age of preparation was over. But it's useful life goes on and on and on. It still runs perfectly.

This is the idea behind the end of the ages. All the preparation was finished when Jesus came. That, in fact stopped when Jesus was rejected, crucified, finished -the end, raised to life again and proclaimed a risen Saviour to Israel for 40 years. Still rejected, God's plan was complete - finished. God took Israel out of the way by the Roman General, Titus. There has been no preparation for Jesus in Israel ever since, for His unveiling to Israel is finished. Israel was finished too when the General came. Even today, there is no temple, no altar, no sacrifice in Israel; only Moslems and Christians and other sojourners. Israel is finished.

But God isn't finished. He turned to the Gentiles, the others for a time waiting for the repentance of His people and the resumption of His purposes. All this is in that verse in Hebrews nine.

The cross is at the centre of history. Mount calvary is the highest peak in time. How long will it all continue?

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

This is the task of the New Testament Church and end of this age of world time.

:24 HE (Jesus) HAS APPEARED IN HEAVEN FOR YOU.

But, look very carefully. He is manifesting Himself not to us, but before Almighty God. *Appear* here, in the original means To show ones self, to declare himself and make himself known, to show the reality; in this case of His sacrificial death, to provide the evidence of what was done whereby the redemption of guilty sinners is adequately and justly accomplished. It is proof that there is nothing else that could have been done that He has not already done.

What more could we want?

After all the hundreds of years that all the preparation was being made and all the evidence was being collated, the time for action had come. Now the critical thing to God was not the suffering, the demonstration, the proclamation, the blood, the dying, as vital, as essential, as all those things are in redemption's story. The important action that encapsulated all the other essential factors was the showing, the validation, the proof of it all that occurred when Jesus appeared before His Father's throne with the smear of blood upon His hands and your name upon His lips.

There is a story I heard my Father tell when he was the superintendent of a bush Sunday School toward the end of the second world war. I would have been about eight years old.

It concerned a fire in a double storey timber house. People gathered to watch it burn, when someone noticed a small head protrude from an upstairs window. A boy. The son of the couple, the owners, who would die in the house.

A bystander, a middle aged man, jumped to the rescue. Grasping a downpipe he scaled the wall near to the lad's window. Turning away from him, "Quick lad, climb on to my back. Hang on tight." And he made his way slowly back down to the ground, to the applause of the gathered crowd. But his hands were terribly, terribly burned by the heated metal as he descended, and he was taken to the hospital.

Weeks later there was a court case to decide the fate of the rescued lad, for there were more than one interested couple who had good intentions toward his welfare, and to adopt him. Then a young man stood up in the body of the court, "Your Honour, I also have a claim to make for the future of this young boy," he said. Oh! And what is your claim upon His welfare? What can you provide for him? What claim do you have upon his future? the Magistrate asked. Whereupon the young man walked toward the bench and held out his scarred hands.

"Jesus entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."

:26 HE WILL APPEAR IN THE HEAVENS FOR AND WITH HIS OWN.

Our death is part of our humanness. Just so, His death was part of His. When we are born a death date is entered into the diary of our lives. We cannot escape it. But we can prepare for it. A life insurance salesman pulled up in a country town and engaged a lean and lanky lad sitting on an upturned tub, under the shade of a verandah. "What's the death rate around her, lad, do you know? After a moments pause when received a pearl of wisdom. "About the same as everywhere, I guess, the lad drawled, About one each!"

Well that's about right. Our death is built in when we are born. We can modify it, hasten it, defer it. We cannot delete it. It is going to happen. The appointment must be kept The Bible declares it: It is written:

"Just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27&28ESV. We must give an account for all things done in our lives

Just as your death date is entered into Heaven's diary, much more so was that of Jesus Christ who was born as man that He might, knowing the absolute worst about you, take the penalty of your sin upon Himself and die because of them in your place.

Now all of that has been done. It was done two thousand years ago, give or take a couple of years. We accept God's provision for our welfare by faith, trusting the Lord Jesus we have the confidence to leave our future in His hands. Now here is His promise, *"So Christ having been offered once (as our sacrifice offering) to bear the sins of many, will appear the second time to . . . save those who are eagerly waiting for him."*

He will Bring with Him those who have died in faith, and He will pluck from this earth those who serve Him yet, and are waiting for and looking for Him.

If Jesus Christ has already died for our sins, and if He calls us to Himself, and we trusting in the declaration of faith have put our case into His care, How will He then save us?

He will save us by taking our case into His hands and standing in our stead at the Judgement seat. "This one I know. They are mine. Their sins are already cleansed, removed, buried in the sea of my forgetfulness.

They're underneath the blood on the cross of Calvary,
As far removed as darkness is from dawn;
In the sea of God's forgetfulness, that's good enough for me,
Praise the Lord, my sins are gone!

They have no case to answer!

Our Closing Hymn. The Lily of the Valley B648

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and makes me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my comfort, In trouble He's my stay;
He tells me every care on Him to roll;
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He all my griefs has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower;
I have all for Him forsaken and all my idols torn
From my heart, and now He keeps me by His power,
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal:
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He will never, never leave me nor yet forsake me here,
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
With His manna He my hungry soul shall fill,
Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll:
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul. Charles W. Fry 1837 - 1882.

Bible selections are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise acknowledged.

Good Bye, and may the Lord be with you till we meet again.