

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.

Introit: He is Lord.

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.

Aspirational Prayer:

Almighty God unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify thy holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: Standing on the Promises. B329.

1. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ my King;
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
Stand-ing on the promis-es of God.

Refrain:

Stand-ing, stand-ing. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God my Sav-iour;
Stand-ing, stand-ing. I'm Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of God.

2. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es that cannot fail.
When the howl-ing storms of doubt and fear as-sail,
By the liv-ing word of God, I shall pre-vail.
Stand-ing on the promis-es of God.
3. Stand-ing on the prom-is-es of Christ the Lord.
Bound to Him e-ter-nal-ly by love's strong chord,
O-ver-com-ing dai-ly with the Spir-it's sword,
Stand-ing on the promis-es of God.

Russel Carter 1849 - 1928. In the Public Domain.

Let's bow together in prayer.

Lord God, we are bound together by love's strong cord. We are bound to you and by the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ we are bound to one another. We thank you for the blood that the Lord Jesus shed on our behalf all those years ago and it is just as fresh today as it was then.

We see in our mind's eye that dying thief who thought better of his sins and thought better of his situation, a one way street and he thought better of His Saviour. Lord remember me! Today you will be with me in Paradise. What a promise he had to hold on to. A promise of his very own. That it is, but we can share his experience for that blood is sticky stuff. It binds us together, Jesus and I. Jesus and you We belong together because we belong to you, dear Lord. Amen.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall.
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call.
Resting in my Saviour as my all in all
Standing on the promises of God.

Today's order of service was compiled primarily by Joan Smith. For those who do not know her she is a very amazing lady She has been a part of the Church for longer than any of us can remember. She has been with us in our ups and downs, when there were very few meeting and when the sanctuary filled up with a strong Sunday School, youth group and young adults. Now she is into her nineties. She is our secretary. She would have led this service from the pulpit if she had been allowed out of the C19 lock up. She has had up to 20 ladies from the district to lunch once a month, she hosts Bible Studies and prayer meetings in her unit.

So Welcome:

We welcome you to share in Joan's service today.

A Bible reading: Philippians 2:5-11. This is taken from the English Standard Version, but you can read it in your own Bible. It is best to be familiar with your own:

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Yes, Lord, we want the focus of this service to be upon You. We want to learn more of You today, to grow nearer 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, Lead Me to Calvary. No. R81.

1. King of my life, I crown Thee now.
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.

Refrain:

Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me -
Lead me to Calvary

2. Show me the Tomb Where Thou wast laid,
Tenderly mourned and wept;
Angels in robes of light arrayed
Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.
3. May I be willing, Lord, to bear
Daily my cross for Thee;
Even the cup of grief to share,
Thou hast borne all for me.

The prayers of the Church

Let us bring our petitions, our hopes and our fears to our Heavenly Father. As we do so, you also in your heart bring your personal issues to Him.

Our Heavenly Father we approach you in Jesus name, bringing to you the needs, and our praise and joys and our problems to you 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.

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 pray for our own people. There are those who have real needs. Darrell and Wendy. Wendy still need your healing touch, also Joan, Coralie. 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, 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 for ongoing healing

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your family in many places. 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.

We pray for our area responsibilities. For the ministry in the schools, especially at Eltham North which we see as a place of responsibility for us.

We pray too for those who are shut in by government regulation 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. We are your people. This is your work and we acknowledge our full dependence on you.

in Jesus name, Amen.

Our Father who is in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. 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 have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Address.

Let us read, Micah 6: 1 - 8. Can you guess the text that chosen for today's message from this word of the Lord? Well you are wrong! That is a good verse. But it is v4.

"For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam."

What sort of text is that?

Let me read that verse again. What part of the verse do I want to use?

Now you are getting a bit toe-y. It couldn't be Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Could it?

Musical Miriam is called 'the prophetess' in Exodus 15:20, because she stood alongside her brother Aaron to receive the communications of the Lord concerning the people and their journey. She was known for her messages, thus her title but was far better known for her music. She was a singing prophetess, maybe combining both offices.

Exodus 15:20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And we are told what it was that she sang, and we too sometimes still sing her song in our services in these days:

'And Miriam sang to them (Make it fit the music:) *"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."* Exodus 15:21.

Now this is significant for it was F W Boreham 88 years ago who left more than thirty volumes of essays behind him, who stated that nobody much reads the sermons of the great preachers that shook and shaped the English speaking world, three

hundred, or two hundred, or even one hundred years ago, but everybody sings their hymns. Consider this sample:

"A mighty Fortress is Our God," Martin Luther, 1493-1546. "I Sing the Mighty Power of God that made the mountains rise," Isaac Watts 1674 -1748, "Oh For a Thousand Tongues to sing my Great Redeemer's Praise," Charles Wesley brother of John Wesley 1707-1788. "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me," John Newton 1725-1807, These are but a sample.*However I did find our theme for this message in his volume, *A Witches Brewing*, written in about 1933.

There is a grandeur in these sentiments that transcends the centuries. Their lilt clings to our tongue like honey. Years ago, we used molasses to make drive belts grip. Sweet and sticky. But who knows or even reads their sermons. Books of their Preaching that turned a people up-side-down countless times, gather dust today. Something in their song is sweet to our taste and the music grips our hearts and transforms our lives like nothing else. Miriam as a singing prophetess knew how to hold the minds and hearts of her people.

Prophesy has two dimensions. Commonly we think of a prophet foretelling the future by the Spirit of God. However this is a secondary function. Their primary ministry was, and still is, the forthtelling of the nature, standards and declarations of God. His holiness, His requirements, His redemption, His expectations of His holy people; is that which we today call preaching. The pastor in his pulpit when he is faithfully preaching the word of God is a forthtelling prophet. He, if faithful, is on safe ground with God. Faithful is the key word.

The Bible tells us that Aaron, Moses and Miriam were siblings, children of Amram. Their names have significant meanings, significant to their life's work. Aaron means 'lofty mountain of strength'; Moses is 'taken out. Taken out' of the Nile, and then of Egypt, and at last at Horeb taken out of leadership and taken out of the Exodus; The name 'Miriam' means rebellion. It speaks of her nature, not just a particular act. Some people just can't help themselves at going against authority. After crossing the Nile she had a happy message to tell, but she could be quite hard to get along with. She was the little girl who had a little curl right in the middle of her forehead.

2. Moses balked at God's command to lead His people out of Egypt and into to Canaan. A massive, unpleasant, dangerous undertaking. At 80 years of age, just a little younger than I am today, he had to convince the Israelites to trust him. Forty years ago he had tried that and failed and hid in the desert working as a shepherd. Why would they believe him now? But God had commissioned him with the promise to guard and guide him through it all. No, No. No! As an adopted Egyptian into the house of Pharaoh he had been trained in all the arts of war. He had led a victorious Egyptian army to victory in Northern Africa (It is recorded in secondary extra-biblical records). But then he committed a felony at the age of 40 and had to flee the country.

Now God wanted him to go back to Egypt. No. No. No! He tried one excuse after another, but God rejected them all. At last he was reduced to a desperate plea, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else!"
God was angry with him -

Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming

out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. Exodus 4:14-16.

Moses did not get out of this commission, but he did buy himself extra troubles. With Aaron came Miriam and she, willing and able as she often was, was another bundle of trouble.

Moses's sin was striking the rock to give the people water. He had done this before and the bare rock gushed a plentiful flow of water for man and beast. They came to the problem again. And Again Moses turned to God and God changed his instruction. *Speak* to the rock. But he struck it twice. This was seen by God as a serious breach of faith. Numbers 20:10-13 Why? Moses used his experience from the previous occasion. The answer is in this text, "Because you did not believe me!" Past experience, or copying somebody else is never a substitute for trusting the word of God in guidance. The two situations may look the same, as they certainly did to Moses. But not so to God. Why? Because God was also using what happened to Moses to teach us how to trust Him Look at this text:

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 1 Corinthians 10:11.

What was the lesson that was so important? The rock is a picture of Jesus Christ. Striking the rock is a picture of the cross where Jesus was slain. He was stricken for our iniquities. We must trust the crucified Jesus for our redemption.

Speaking to the rock is a picture of Jesus as our priest who is ever ready to hear our confession. He can forgive our sinfulness, cleanse our hearts answer our needs We do not over and over again crucify Him anew. See Hebrews 6:6.

It may be a small thing to you. But it is very significant to God that your faith is instant. If sin intervenes, if fellowship is broken your recourse is to speak to Him in personal prayer, confess your faults, seek forgiveness and start again. Read 1 John 1:5-2:2. It is your answer.

So serious was the matter to God that He punished him by excluding him from entering the land of Canaan. That was to be a battle in faith. God would need a new man, spiritually equipped for the job. And in this God did not relent.

Aaron the Push Over. Aaron was not a pusher, but he could be pushed. The Lord had trouble convincing Moses to give up his comfortable domestic life style and take up an harrowing, unattractive leadership role of those querulous Hebrews.

Not so Aaron. He did whatever he was bid. It was the trait of his nature that caused him to so quickly abandon the constraints of his duty as high priest to the Lord and build an Egyptian style golden calf, thus bringing the anger of the Lord God upon the whole nation and in particular upon himself. O how easily he was swayed! Read Exodus 32: how the people made him rebel against the Lord God and His ways.

And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf." Exodus 32:22-24.

What a miracle! What guidance! What an imagination! What sin! What evil! Moses was not fooled, neither was the Lord. God is never unaware of His people's sin, so beware - don't fool yourself. He is also aware of your need. So trust Him implicitly. He is wholly trust worthy. Doreen and I have proved Him to be so.

This transgression was grievous to the Lord, and Moses His servant, but what pushed them over the edge was their rebellion against Moses, the Lord's anointed.

The story is found in Numbers 12. Read it. The issue of Miriam and Aaron's complaint is found in verse 2, "They said, 'Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?' They found another issue to stir the pot. Typical. Moses had a second Marriage with an Ethiopian (In Hebrew- Cushite) woman. He previously married Zipporah daughter of Jethro the Midianite with whom he lived after fleeing from Pharaoh. (There has been some chatter in the commentaries, whether these marriages were in parallel or in series - no one really knows.)

So they opposed the leadership of Moses. It happens all the time. As Miriam is mentioned first v1, it is considered that she instigated the plot. Note the severity of the punishment reserved for Miriam v12. It is a comment on the intensity of her leprosy v10. Moses had to plead with God for her. She died in the desert at Kadesh Numbers 20:1.

Aaron didn't have it in him. But he went along with it and gave his authority to rebellion and desertion. He was to pay for that. He was stripped of his priestly robes, his ministry taken from him Numbers 20:23-28 and given to his son Eleazar.

Moses failed to offer to God faith in His word and in Numbers 20:12, the sentence of which is executed in Deuteronomy 34:4-6. Numbers 20 is a sad chapter, but it is an instructive chapter because it urges us to keep faith, and also to keep in the faith.

However, be not dismayed, for the Scriptures do not end with the book of Deuteronomy.

Eight hundred years after it all happened God speaks as if nothing in their lives ever troubled His memory. God's memory is something wonderful. If you are His, Rejoice! For He will not remember your limitations and failures. In Heaven, neither will you*. We began with a verse from Micah. We end by considering the last words of His prophecy. Rejoice in it. Rejoice in your Saviour.

Micah 7:18 & 19.

¹⁸Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. ¹⁹He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Gone, gone, gone, gone!
Yes my sins are gone.
Now my soul is free, and in my heart's a song;
Buried in the deepest sea,
Yes that's good enough for me;
I shall live eternally, Praise God! My sins are gone.

* Look up your Bible and see what God says about the Sins and Iniquities of His redeemed people: Psalm 25:7 & 65:3; Isaiah 43:25 & 44:22; Jeremiah 33:8, 50:20; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 11:27; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 10:16&17; 1 John 1:7-9, & 2:1-2 Revelation 1:5.

Hymn: Who is on the Lord's side? No. R359.

1. Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King?
Who will be His help-ers, oth-er lives to bring?
Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe?
Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go?
By thy call of mer-cy, By thy Grace di-vine,
We are on the Lord's side, Sav-iour, We are Thine.
2. Not for weight of glo-ry, Not for crown or palm,
En-ter we the ar-my, Raise the war-rior psalm
But for love that claim-eth Lives for whom He died;
He whom Je-sus nam-eth, must be on His side.
By Thy love con-strain-ing, By thy Grace di-vine,
We are on the Lord's side, Sav-iour, We are Thine.
3. Fierce may be the con-flict, Strong may be the foe,
But the Kings own ar-my None can o-ver-throw.
Round His standard raging Vic-tory is se-cure;
For His truth un-changing Makes the tri-umph sure.
Joy-ful-ly en-list-ing By thy Grace di-vine,
We are on the Lord's side, Sav-iour, We are Thine.

Frances R Havergal 1836-1879

Now the Blessing:

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20,21.