

Glen Park Gospel Church Inc
Do at Home Communion Service for 26 July 2020

The Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done 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, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Redeemed

R488

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
His child and forever I am.

Refrain:
Redeemed, redeemed,
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, redeemed,
His child and forever I am.

I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long:
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song.

Refrain

I know there's a crown that is waiting
In yonder bright mansion for me,
And soon, with the spirits made perfect,
At home with the Lord I shall be.

Refrain.

Frances Crosby. 1820 - 1915

You might like to thoughtfully read Micah 7, or at least portions of it:

V1-6 speak of the awful spiritual condition of Israel and Judah in the days of Hezekiah. He takes time to look down the years.

V7-along with the night darkness we catch the first signs of the gloaming which heralds the brightness of a coming day. With the denunciations there is also a note of promise of restoration, "I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me." Who has not had a sleepless night, haunted by our failures of the past and the distasteful events that are to come! Here is a promise of hope.

He reminds them of the records of God's dealing with His people in the days of the Exodus v15, and points them to a like salvation to come.

The whole point of God's forgiveness is that He remembers our sins no more. They are trampled underfoot, their power extinguished, cast into the depths of the sea, never to be seen again.

"Who 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. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Micah 7:18 & 9ESV.

O boundless Salvation

William Booth 1829 - 1912

1 O boundless salvation! deep ocean of love,
O fulness of mercy, Christ brought from above,
The whole world redeeming, so rich and so free,
'Now flowing for all men,(x3)' come, roll over me!

2 My sins they are many, their stains are so deep,
And bitter the tears of remorse that I weep;
But useless is weeping; thou great crimson sea,
'Thy waters can cleanse me,' come, roll over me!

3 The tide is now flowing, I'm touching the wave,
I hear the loud call of the mighty to save;
My faith's growing bolder, delivered I'll be;
'I plunge 'neath the waters,' they roll over me.

4 And now, hallelujah! the rest of my days
Shall gladly be spent in promoting his praise
Who opened his bosom to pour out this sea
'O boundless salvation' for you and for me.

Let us take time to allow these words work peace and joy to our hearts. The Holy Spirit is never in an hurry. Let the moment of quietness minister peace to your heart and lead you into this session of corporate prayer

At this point we bring our prayer to God as a fellowship of His people. We invite you to make your own prayer. Or you might like to share this schedule.

Please include in your prayer three elements. Prayer, praise and proclamation. We have begun our service with praise. Tell Him of your thanks, admiration and love to Him and for Him. As Frederic Faber wrote:

O Jesus, Jesus dearest Lord! Forgive me if I say, for very love Thy sacred name a thousand times a day. O Jesus, Lord, with me abide: I rest in Thee what e're betide. Thy gracious name is my reward. I love, I love Thee, Lord.

If you wish incorporate the whole hymn into your prayer time, it is No. 41 in the Red book. Remember a hymn is properly a sung prayer of praise and supplication.

Confession comes next. We need to look back over our last week at our action, words and thoughts. Each use David's prayer from Psalm 139:23 "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" It takes time to comply, allowing the Holy Spirit put his finger upon that which grieves Him.

Pray for your Church family. Go through them one by one. Please remember especially Wendy today and the coming chemo, 27th August and currently a dislocated disc in her back, which can be very painful. Pray for our planned ministries despite the Covid deferments Remember each other as we belong to one - another even with all our faults and limitations. Pray for a selection of missionaries. We suggest that you might like to use for a quick reference the prayer pages of Green leaf for the last week of July. Or if you have it Joan's mission letters snippets. Then pray for your own family, for need and confession of failings and thanksgiving for His love and forgiveness. Remember too our obligation to take the Gospel light to the dark corners at home and abroad.

Finish with prayers of confession and intercession for our nation, and its present stresses and needs. Ungodly forces are rampant today in Australia. Our Federal parliament has some men of faith as well as the children of this world. State legislature is not so well endowed. Pray for the decisions and promotions that are being made wherever they are made. Ask the Lord to promote that which is holy and good and cancel the efforts of the gainsayers.

Next we have a message from the Lord in the book of Judges. The Scripture Reading is Judges 6: 1 - 27.

Gideon asked the Lord a question that many of us could ask today. . .

**“If the Lord is with us,
Why Then, Has All This Happened to Us?”**

Judges 6:13 Then Gideon said to him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

At least that is the way that it seemed to Gideon. Gideon was the godly son of a godly father who as an older man had come to accept the status quo under which he and his family lived. It is easy to just accept the domination of task-master's and bullies as long as we can eke out a living under their rule of tyranny, and with our compliance, they leave us alone. Their motto might be Proverbs 17:1 "Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife."

Israel at this time was living under the domination of the Midianites. The Midianites were compatriots of the Amalekites, sworn enemies of Israel's God, who had fought against Moses as he led Israel out of the slavery of Egypt through the desert lands to the North of Amalekite territory to the southern borders of God's promised land, Canaan. The Lord God enabled Joshua, Mose's General at that time, through intercessory prayer, to defeat Amalek. Their army was turned back but not fully destroyed. It was typical Amalekite strategy to stampede their cattle herds through their prey and then to follow them with the sword. The midianites were using an allied strategy to take advantage of their foes.

The Midianite strategy history tells us, was to allow a brow-beaten enemy to plant their crops and do all the work of bringing it to fruition, threshing and winnowing. With the new seed nicely stored, they would attack and despoil the land and take that year's produce for themselves, so that after the Israelites had done all the work of harvesting, the Midianites then took away the spoil, leaving the garner as bare as Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. It kept their subject peoples dispirited, hungry and weak. That describes Israel in Judges chapter six. Israel had forgotten her God, and the Lord was seeking to teach them a lesson.

What was Joash's answer? Instead he decided to have Gideon thresh his wheat inside the wine press, hidden away from plain sight. It was a way around God's discipline and subsequent repentance. Obviously the yield could not be great. From it he had to feed the family, put away a seed crop to plant next Autumn and supplement the feeding of their animals during the coming winter.

Gideon had, had time to think. And when the angel confronted him, he said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

To Gideon the situation was not logical. But each generation, although encouraged by the experiences and testimonies of the past, needs the discipline of finding essential first hand faith for them selves. So far Gideon had only experienced defeat the stress of the cramped condition of Joash's wine press with all its unnatural constraint and sweat.

But at least he was doing something to feed the family and he was doing what he could to maintain family wellbeing and the integrity of his family inheritance.

In one of his essays entitled, 'The Fish Pens,' F W Boreham in 1923 wrote of a visit to some fish pens at Lakes Entrance where fish in their native salt water were kept awaiting being taken to market. He was told by the fishermen that fish kept in pens away from their natural enemies in the wider ocean was bad for them. They became lethargic and lost condition, then at the market their commercial value fell. Boreham then tells of a trawler fisherman in Devon who put a cat fish into the wet hold of his boat to pester his catch and it greatly annoyed them. The agitation of the cat fish kept his catch in perfect marketable condition and this one trawler man always fetched the best prices. He divulged his secret to his competitors only upon his death. (Rubble & Roseleaves. The Fish Pens, 1923, p198.) God also has His cat fish that trouble us for our good and for His glory. Be careful how you react to His irritations. Do you just complain? Or do you search your soul; your present relationships and past actions?

Feeling the pressures leads us to ask the questions, and asking the questions leads us to search for answers. Searching for answers ought to lead us to God's warnings and with them, God's promises and God's promises can lead us to faith and faith to salvation.

What did I do to deserve all this? This question many, many people are asking today. William Shakespeare puts the same words into the mouth of Brutus, and Cassius answers him in that famous line in his play, 'Julius Caesar', answers him that they were doing nothing. "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars; But in ourselves, that we are underlings." (Shakespeare "Julius Caesar," Act I, Scene III.) The pressure is felt as much as it is earned.

"The fault dear Brutus, is not in our stars but in ourselves."

Notice the Lord's remedy. Judges 6 includes the commissioning of a very humble man to a super-human task. Only very seldom does God send a group, even a group of believers. Normally God works through one spirit led man who will, under the direction of the Lord, engage others to work with him. The danger is to look to men for their approbation rather than to the Lord for His direction.

Judges 6:13&14 And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

:14 And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"

If it were you, would you be bewildered and scared at a commandment like this? If it were I, I would be asking, "But where is my army?" Look at these three negatives: "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Here is the Lord's response, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." One man.

Range your mind over to highlights of the Old Testament and you will see an army of brilliant, faithful individuals whom God chose, equipped and used to minister to the masses.

But what about the New Testament? Didn't Jesus call together twelve men and train them as a band? Yes He did. He called them mostly one by one, and trained them together in ministry dynamics in the way Godly colleges copy today. Then the Holy Spirit sent them individually out from Jerusalem in every direction sharing the things that they had learned. We only have the written New Testament record, the teaching of a few for a short time. Peter, John, James, and most of it is by Paul, the "ring in." Each man sealed his ministry with his life's blood. According to tradition, even John Mark, who once turned back, who wrote the second Gospel was martyred for his testimony alone in Egypt. Only John lived on to a fruitful old age.

When He sends you . . . Go!

Rise Up O Men of God R381.

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait—
Your strength unequal to the task,
But Christ in you is great!

Lift high the cross of Christ;
Tread where His feet have trod;
As brothers of the Son of man,
Rise up, O men of God!

William Merrell 1867 - 1954

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.