

This is scheduled as a Communion Service so I suggest that you prepare what you will need before continuing.

Good morning everybody. Welcome to Glen Park. The hymns I have chosen for this morning are from the blue book "The Hymnal".

>>>>>**Opening:**

With people around us rather gloomy and fearful we need to be reminded of our eternal future. I shall take just one example, this from Isaiah 35, the last verse: "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain Joy and gladness. Sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

>>>>> **Prayer:**

Let us give thanks for our "glorious" future. Our loving Father who is in heaven (as well as the rest of the universe), we gather to worship You this morning. We bring You our praise and our heartfelt thanks for You have made possible for us a truly fantastic future. Help us we pray to worship You in spirit and in truth this morning, to focus our thoughts fully upon You, upon Your eternal Word, and what You wish to tell us this morning. Amen!

>>>>>The first **hymn** I chose is number 26. The words are based upon Psalm 103 verse 1 and are set to a cheerful Irish melody.

"We praise Thee with our minds O Lord,  
kept sharp to think Thy thought.  
Come Holy Ghost with grace outpoured  
to teach what Christ has taught.  
In all our learning may we seek  
that wisdom from above  
which comes to all: the brave, the meek  
who ask in faith and love.

We praise Thee through our bodies, Lord,  
kept strong to do Thy will,  
Thy Spirit's temples which afford  
a means to praise Thee still.

We give ourselves a sacrifice  
to live as unto Thee  
for Thou alone has paid the price  
to bring salvation free.

We praise Thee in our hearts O King,  
kept pure to know Thy ways  
and raise to Thee a hymn to sing  
eternally Thy praise.

Although adoring hearts will bow  
as age on ages roll.

We praise Thee in our beings now,  
mind, body, heart, and soul."

>>>>>**Reading** again from Isaiah, a selection from chapter one. Is this our situation today?

"The vision of Isaiah, the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear O heavens and give ear O earth for the Lord has spoken: I have nourished sons and have made them great and they have rebelled against Me. The ox knows his owner and the donkey his master's crib but Israel does not recognise Me. My people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who deal corruptly. They have forsaken the Lord. They have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger. Why should you be stricken more since it brings only further revolt. The whole head is sick and the heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head there is no soundness. No-one seeks remedy. Your country lies desolate, your cities burned with fire. Strangers devour your land in your presence."

Comment: Australia's oldest seaport, the port of Newcastle was privatised in 2014 with Chinese interests taking an initial 50% of the shareholding.

The other 50% is mostly a mix of Australian and international super funds.

In October 2015 the port of Darwin was leased for 99 years to the Chinese Landbridge group.

In 2016 China gained 20% interest in Australia's busiest container port, the port of Melbourne.

There are others but let's go back to Isaiah recommencing at verse 16.

"Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Learn to do right. Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed. Defend the fatherless. Plead for the widow. Come now and let us reason together says the Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow. Though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool. If you

are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land. But if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.”

Of the future; verses 27 and 28 teach:

“Zion shall be redeemed with justice and her converts with righteousness but the destruction of rebels and sinners shall be together. They that forsake the Lord shall be consumed.”

The two ends of the two roads. Are you glad that you have been redeemed? We cannot make ourselves clean beyond some insufficient standard but God Himself has provided the completely sufficient ransom that CAN make us free.

#### >>>>>Communion

Dear Lord, our Redeemer. What You have done for us is truly awesome. You have done what we could never have done for ourselves. Of ourselves we are ashamed. But, of Your costly provision for us we are proud. You bought us back! We are sons and daughters of the King of Kings! Today, we ask Your blessing upon these elements that we have prepared to aid our remembrance of Your Great love, kindness, and mercy to each of us. Amen.

“The Lord Jesus on the very night when He was betrayed took bread. When He had given thanks He broke it and said, “Take, eat. This is my body which is broken for you. Do this to remember Me.”

Take of the bread now.

“When supper was ended He took the cup also, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember Me.”

Drink of the cup now.

“Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you are proclaiming the Lord’s death until He comes again.”

>>>>>I have chosen verses from **Hymn 182** to follow. The original is 12<sup>th</sup> Century so this one really has stood the test of time. Today though, we do have a somewhat modernised version.

“O Jesus, King most Wonderful,  
Thou conqueror renowned.  
Thou sweetness unsurpassable  
in Whom all joys are found.

When once You come into the heart  
then truth begins to shine.  
Then earthly vanities depart,  
then kindles Love Divine.

O Jesus, Light of all below,  
Thou fount of living fire.  
Surpassing all the joys we know  
and all we can desire.

Jesus, may all confess Your Name  
Your wondrous love adore,  
and, seeking You themselves inflamed  
to love You more and more.

You, Jesus, may our voices bless  
You may we love alone  
and ever in our lives express  
the image of Thine own.”

#### >>>>>Prayer.

Pray as you feel lead. I will suggest a few points but leave the wording and other points yours.

Give thanks for His provision for us.

Pray for our leaders to make decisions which are wise, especially pray this for those whose recent decisions you disagree with.

For preachers of the Word whether teachers or evangelists to be true to The Word and clear in their presentations whether to few or to many.

**In closing:** “Our loving Heavenly Father. We thank You that You hear our prayers, often initiating answers before we even realise our need. Thank You that You are always with us and nothing ever takes You by surprise. Help us to always be responsive to Your Word to us as we “express the image of Your life” we pray in Jesus mighty Name. Amen.”

#### >>>>>Over to Mark for the **Message**.

>>>>>**Blessing** (Numbers 6:24) “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”  
Go in peace.