

GLEN PARK SERVICE

3rd January 2021

Call to Worship

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

Reading: Psalm 100

Hymn 1 Blue book Joyful Joyful we adore thee.

Joyful Joyful, we adore thee God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, Opening to the sun above;
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubts away,
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine,

Mortals join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, marching onwards, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Grace and Peace.

“Grace to you, and peace, from God our father,
and the Lord Jesus Christ.” - Rom.1 : 7.

Have you noticed that every one of the nine “Christian Church Epistles” begins with the same invocation? “Grace be to you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” From such as Paul’s it was no mere wish, but an earnest, loving prayer. It is always appropriate, and particularly so at the beginning of a new year. There are three great truths comprised in it, namely, the fatherhood of God, the lordship of Christ, and the true blessing of the Christian believer. It will mean much if we enter the new year with these great truths in mind.

We are living in such times as never were before. Awful convulsions have shaken the world. Millions have died in recent world wars. Thrones have fallen. Sweeping changes have come. Science has now put into men's hands powers of almost unlimited possibility either for racial good or racial destruction. The war-haunted world is a smouldering volcano. It is not strange that apprehensive feelings should cling around us as we peer into the future, and that we fall back with relief on the doctrine of the divine sovereignty. Yet somehow even that is not enough. We need the further truth that the God who is sovereign is also "our Father". All our life will feel safer and gladder; the enigmas of human history will assume a kindlier aspect, and the big universe itself will become friendlier, if we go into the new year with this precious truth in mind, that the sovereign God is our Father, ever-loving, ever-present, compassionately interested in all our concerns, and ever pursuing through our changeful earthly vicissitudes His purposes for our ultimate good.

But see now the absolute lordship of Christ in this Pauline benediction. Admittedly, the Greek word 'kurios' here translated "Lord" is used in the New Testament as a mere honorary title not unlike the English "Sir"; but it is also used as the equivalent of the Old Testament "Jehovah". It is in this latter sense that Christ is Lord - in the sense in which God alone can be Lord. If proof of this were needed, it is here in this very benediction. The "grace" and "peace" are to come from "God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ". Such close association of our Lord's name with that of God, and such implied identity in the imparting of grace and peace, would be sheer blasphemy if Christ were not co-equal with the Father. May we never cease to marvel that our Saviour and Lord is the eternal Son of God Himself, in whom there is the perfect union of human sympathy and divine power! He is the Lord of history. The vast turmoils and evolutions of our day are but the predicted precursors of His own return in kingly authority, to establish His worldwide millennial empire. We are thinking realistically - He may return this year!

Paul prays that "grace" and "peace" may be given to us. These are two lovely words. Grace here is the imparting to us of God's holy love.

That other word, "peace" here means well-being in general. How often we Christians misunderstand our real needs! How often we think that if only we had more money, higher position, greater gifts, or perhaps better health, we should be much better off! No, our real need is "grace and peace." Thank God, they can be ours through all the coming days.

(Taken from "Awake my Heart" by J Sidlow Baxter printed 1959.)

Hymn 627 Blue book Anywhere with Jesus

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go;
 Anywhere he leads me in this world below;
 Anywhere without him dearest joys would fade:
 Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.

Chorus Anywhere! Anywhere! Fear I cannot know;
 Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.

Anywhere with Jesus I need fear no ill,
Tho' temptations gather round my pathway still;
He himself was tempted that he might help me;
Anywhere with Jesus I may victor be,

Anywhere with Jesus I am not alone;
Other friends may fail me, he is still my own;
Tho' his hand may lead me over dreary ways,
Anywhere with Jesus is a house of praise.

Anywhere with Jesus I can go to sleep,
When the dark'ning shadows round about me creep;
Knowing I shall waken, never more to roam,
Anywhere with Jesus will be home, sweet home.

Time of Prayer:

Please pray for those who are in care, those who are shut in, those who are sick and going through treatment. Those who are finding the changes hard to take concerning what we can and can't do and are feeling the stress of it.

Pray for our government for wisdom and humanity in the decisions they take, knowing that the decisions are some times hard to take

Pray for our missionaries both at home and also abroad and sometimes in very dangerous situations. Please pray as you feel led by the Lord.

Hymn 626 Blue book

All the Way

All the way my Saviour leads me; What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who thro' life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know what e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;
For I know what e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me; Cheers each winding path I tread,
Gives me grace for every trial, Feeds me with the living bread;
Though my weary steps may falter. And my soul a'thirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo a spring of joy I see;
Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo a spring of joy I see.

All the way my Saviour leads me; Oh, the fulness of His love!
Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father's house above:
When my spirit, clothed immortal, Wings its flight to realms of day,
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way;
This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way.

Address Chris Tringham.

Closing Hymn (Would have been on the overhead, if you are not familiar with the tune it can be read I think you will be encouraged.)

Lord for the Years.

Lord for the years, your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided.
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed, by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for this and every nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives to live for Christ alone.

Benediction.

Hebrews 13: 20-21.

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 you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.