

Good Morning, and welcome to our time of prayer and praise. Today is also a communion service. If you are at home, you will need to make a simple preparation before we begin. Should you have not anticipated, by providing a small portion of bread and juice. Simply use whatever you have. The benefit of a communion memorial is in the act of remembrance, not the exact nature of elements used.

*Call to Worship.*

“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. Deliver me from all my transgressions. From Psalm 139. 7&8.

*A prayer upon beginning this service to seek God’s presence and blessing.*

Almighty God, before you all hearts are open. Nothing is hidden from you. You know not only what we do, but you read our desires and our aspirations, understand our thoughts and our actions. We come to you to bring our worship, but first we seek your forgiveness and cleansing where we have failed. That which we have done that we ought not to have done. That which we have not done but are obligated to do.

We are sorry for our thoughtless behaviour.

Help us to not only overcome our faults but to grow stronger in our resolve and our actions that our service and responses may be more caring for others, and thus more pleasing in your sight. We pray in Jesus name, in and through Him. *Amen.*

Continuing this thought , a hymn of aspiration:

Our Red Hymn Book No232.

Deeper and Deeper by Oswald Smith b1889.

Into the heart of Jesus, deeper and deeper I go  
Seeking to know the reason why He should love me so.  
Why He should stoop to lift me up from the miry clay,  
Saving my soul, making me whole, Though I had wandered away.

Into the will of Jesus, deeper and deeper I go  
Praying for grace to follow, Seeking His will to know,  
Bowing in full surrender, low at His blessed feet,  
Bidding Him take, break me and make, till I am moulded and meet.

Into the cross of Jesus, deeper and deeper I go  
Following through the garden, facing the dreaded foe-  
Drinking the cup of sorrow, sobbing with broken heart;  
“Oh Saviour help! Dear Saviour help! Grace for my weakness im-part.”

Into the love of Jesus, deeper and deeper I go,  
Praising the One who brought me out of my sin and woe;  
And through eternal ages, greatfully I shall sing;  
“Oh! How He loved. Oh! How He loved! Jesus my Lord and my King.”

Let us bow together in prayer for one another, for your Church and its ministry.

Our Father in Heaven we come before you in Jesu's name, and upon the merit of His work and person. For we live today amid gathering clouds or social and political storm. The order of godliness and the constraints of civilised order are dissolving before our eyes. The plagues that have settled themselves upon all humanity remind of that which your ancient people faced in their traditional land. We face uncertainty of the future and in this hour as we are enjoined in your word to pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. we call upon you to pour out upon our people a spirit of confession and repentance. And help us to recognise it as it comes. Until then give us, we pray, a protection from this evil, as you protected your people in their days. And also to that end we seek to keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all your people, (as in Ephesians 6.18)

We remember today Wendy in her deep need. We pray for her, your healing. We remember Darrell as stands with her. We remember Doug and Sue and family in their bereavement, the loss of Betty, our sister in the Lord. We think of our ladies in care homes, of Muriel, Rae, June and Georgina. These are our most at risk people.

We pray for Joan, for Helen and sister Mary and their anticipated move and the re-arrangements that this entails. Also Coralie and her service with Wycliffe, about family members for whom she holds concern. We think too of Laurie, Valmai, David and Erin and other members of the family. Of Chris & Doreen, Philip and Eirene and the family in Canberra. There is Arthur and Jeanette and their family and Janette & John Mannion and their family. We remember your words in Philippians 4.6 which tells us "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Lord we take this word to be a promise and pray for our people and their loved ones.

We remember your servants at home and abroad serving you amid added Covid difficulty and pray for them as we pray for our own. We pray for the missionary of the day from Green Leaf, Andrew and Sandra Freeman in Botswana. We ask that the issue of accommodation be resolved for them. We pray too for our outreach as a fellowship and cast ourselves upon you for your guidance and provision. There is much to do whichever way we look and all our people are beset in some way with limitations. Let us see them not as hindrances but find in them opportunities for further service. Lord as we go on into this service to remember your Son, our Saviour and his death upon the cross, Make it most meaningful to us we pray. Our actions and these elements are only simple, but bless them to us, in Jesus' name, *Amen*.

As we approach the table would you turn with me to the hymn No R41. It is not written as a memorial of the communion supper, but as one of deep devotion to the Lord. If you can sing it, do; if not simply read it as an exercise of worship and devotion to Jesus Christ:

O Jesus, Jesus dearest Lord! Forgive me if I say,  
For very love, Thy sacred name a thousand times a day.

*Refrain*            O Jesus, Lord with me abide; I rest in Thee what e'er betide;  
Thy gracious smile is my reward; I love, I love Thee, Lord!

I love Thee so I know not how, my transports\* to control;  
Thy love is like a burning fire, Within my very soul

For that to me art all in all, My honour and my wealth,  
My heart's desire my body strength. My soul's eternal health.

Burn, burn, O love with-in my heart. Burn fiercely night and day,  
Till all the dross of earthly loves is burned, and burned away

O light in darkness, joy in grief. O heaven begun on earth.  
Jesus my love, my treasure. Who can tell what Thou art worth?

What limit is there to this love? Thy flight where wilt Thou stay?  
On, on! Our Lord is sweeter far Today than yesterday.

\* Transports - A Middle English term, meaning to be carried away emotionally.

It is now time to distribute the elements to each communicant.

Let us Read Isaiah 52:13 -53:12. This is the ESV. (But, you may substitute your own.)

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.  
As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human  
semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many  
nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them  
they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

53:1 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD  
been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry  
ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should  
desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with  
grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him  
not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him  
was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the  
LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he  
opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its  
shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken  
away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the  
living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit  
in his mouth.

:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul  
makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of  
the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be  
satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted  
righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil  
with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the  
transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

The Communion meal is from Matthew 26:26-29.

Giving thanks take the piece of bread and wait on the command in His words-

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, broke it and gave it to  
the disciples, and said, "*Take, eat; this is my body.*"

Now take your cup in your hand as we respond to His spoken command.

:27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "*Drink  
of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.*"

If you missed the cue, with your personal prayer of thanks to God, partake now

:29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

A prayer to conclude our observance of the Lord's supper.

O Lord God we thank you for these precious moments when we turn aside from the world's bustle and clatter, and we remember that Jesus died for us. All we can do is offer you the sacrifice of praise. This we do with thankful hearts. We remember that Jesus died for us and was raised again to live in us the quality of life that we could never achieve, but in your strength. Lord live in us that we may be more and more like you. Thus save us from our sins and be in us that which we could never achieve for ourselves. Lord, this prayer we offer in Jesus name, *Amen*.

Now just before Laurie takes over the pulpit to share his message, One verse of -

No R291.

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word,  
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him! How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, Precious Jesus! Oh for grace to trust Him more.

Now let us give attention to Laurie's message.

Hymn R497 Our final Hymn for Today.

Simply trusting every day, Trusting through a stormy way;  
Even when my faith is small, Trusting Jesus, that is all.

*Refrain*

Trusting as the moments fly. Trusting as the days go by.  
Trusting Him what ere befall. Trusting Jesus that is all.

Brightly doth His Spirit shine Into this poor heart of mine;  
While He leads I cannot fall; Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Singing if my way is clear, Praying if the path be drear;  
If in danger for Him call; Trusting Jesus, that is all.

And now our benediction.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.  
*Amen.*

We trust to see you all next week. Here 10.30am.