

Ashburton and Moorland Team

Evening Worship

TRINITY 21 – Bible Sunday

24th October 2021



Preparation

¶ The Gathering

A light is brought in, or a candle may be lit.

The officiant greets the people with these or other suitable words

In the evening, Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said to them: 'Peace be with you.'
John 20:19

The light and the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
In the darkness of this passing age,
your saints proclaim the glory of your kingdom,
revealed among us in Christ our light.
Open our eyes to behold your presence
and join our song to those of the saints
in praise of all your marvellous deeds.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn – God has spoken by his prophets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoPiKqKTmbg>

(Tune: Hyfrydol)

God has spoken – by his prophets,
spoken his unchanging Word;
each from age to age proclaiming
God the one, the righteous Lord!
In the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor still holds fast,
God is on his throne eternal,
he alone the first and last.

God has spoken by Christ Jesus,
Christ the everlasting Son,
brightness of the Father's glory,
with the Father, ever one:
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God, before all time began,
light of light, to Earth descending,
Man, revealing God to man.

God is speaking by his Spirit
speaking to the hearts of men;
in the age-long Word declaring
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast:
God abides, his Word unchanging,
God the first and God the last.

Words: George Wallace Briggs
© 1953 The Hymn Society

Prayers of Penitence

(Sit or kneel)

Jesus says, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
Confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2 Timothy 3.14–4.5

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn – Lord, thy Word abideth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3-dMvkZM-A>

Lord, thy Word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,
then thy Word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
message of salvation.

When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy Word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying!

O that we, discerning,
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee!

Words: Henry William Baker

Gospel Reading

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 5.36b-end

Jesus said to the Jews:

'I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

'You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Creed

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.**

Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church,
that it may be faithful to the teaching of Jesus
and steeped in knowledge and understanding of the scriptures.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who study and teach the Bible
and for those who preach.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray that God's word of grace may be heard by all who are new to the Christian Faith.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for the World, which is God's not ours: may we be faithful and bold in our stewardship of it.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have heard the Bible's message of longing for Peace in God's World and who are working to fulfil it.

We pray for places where there is war and violence.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray that God's word of freedom may be heard by all who are imprisoned by prejudice and hatred.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves as hearers of scriptures. May God's Spirit give us courage and joy to live by them.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for our local communities, that they may be places where all God's children can flourish.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray that God's words of love may be heard by our families and friends and all who serve our communities.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for health and peace
for those who are lonely, anxious or sick.
We pray that God's words of hope
may be heard by those who are housebound or in hospital
and by all those who care for them.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray that God's words of life may be heard by all who mourn.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful:
We pray to you, O Lord

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill:
We pray to you, O Lord

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offences:
We pray to you, O Lord

That there may be peace in your church and for the whole world
We pray to you, O Lord

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit,
In communion with all your saints,
Entrusting one another and all our life to Christ:
We pray to you, O Lord

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
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 trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Hymn – Lord for the years

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNCuPjAZHZM>

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 for 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 commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you:
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.

Words: Timothy Dudley- Smith
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The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.