



Isaac, Ishmael and the Philistines

“Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” (Gen 21.10)

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

(1 Chr 16:8-1)

Let us pray.

**Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,
it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,
to know you, to love you, and to worship you.
It is our greatest pleasure,
our highest privilege, our chief delight,
to meet with you, the one true and living God,
and experience your grace and favour.
Grant us power by your Holy Spirit
to worship you now, in spirit and in truth.**

Amen.

(Valley of Vision)

Praise awaits you God in Zion (Psalm 65)

Praise awaits you God in Zion
Soon all flesh to you will come
Though our sins prevail against us
You atone for every one
Blessed are those you choose and
welcome
Dwelling in your courts of grace
We are filled with every blessing
Satisfied in you always

Holy God and mighty saviour
Hope of all the farthest seas
When we pray you hear and answer
You make known your wondrous deeds
By your strength you formed the
mountains

Stilled the roaring of the waves
Earth rejoices at your goodness
Dawn and evening sing your praise

From your river ever-flowing
You give life to all the land
Autumn rains and grain at harvest
You provide for every man
All the year is crowned with bounty
Deserts bloom and hills bear fruit
Hills and valleys, all creation
Lift their hymn of praise to you

Confession and Assurance

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God’s word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

1 Jn 1:8-10

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (1 Pet 2:24-25)

Come behold the wondrous mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfilment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

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Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of
Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with
laughter, and our tongue with shouts
of joy; then they said among the
nations, "The Lord has done great
things for them." The Lord has done
great things for us; we are glad.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like
streams in the Negeb! Those who sow in
tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

**He who goes out weeping, bearing the
seed for sowing, shall come home with
shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves
with him.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever, age after age.
Amen!**

God's Word

First Reading: Galatians 4:21-31, p. 974

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Genesis 21, p. 14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Isaac, Ishmael and the Philistines (David Thornhill-Smith)

The Lord's my Shepherd (Psalm 23)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and
staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

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.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Tell out my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the
Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit
voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his
Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his
arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his
might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put
to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the
Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

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Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS		
10 & 11 May	Fellowship Groups	Joshua 11.1-15
Thu 12th May	Christian Institute Meeting	7:30pm at Bishopdown Evangelical Church
Sun 15th May	Worship Service	Genesis 22 with Daniel Newman preaching
FURTHER AHEAD		
Thu 16th June	Annual Church Meeting	Please diarise

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)