



## Hope Beyond the Grave

*“After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.” (Gen 23:19)*

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### Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;  
We will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,  
and he has become our salvation.

**Sing praises to the LORD,  
for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.**      *(Isa 12)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *O King, You Are Most Worthy (Psalm 45)*

O King, you are most worthy,  
of men you are the best  
Your words are true and gracious,  
you are forever blessed  
Take up your sword in splendour,  
ride forth in majesty  
For justice and mercy  
and true humility  
Your arrows pierce your enemies,  
you march across the land  
The peoples and the nations  
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,  
with justice you shall reign  
You love all that is righteous  
and hate all evil gain  
So God has richly blessed you  
with joy abundantly  
Your robes are all fragrant,  
your courts are ivory  
There princesses attend you,  
sweet music from of old  
Your future queen awaits you  
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,  
don't give your love abroad  
The king desires your beauty;  
so honour him your Lord  
The gown he gives is glorious,  
the threads are twined with gold  
In shimmering colours  
the envy of the world  
A joyful crowd is with her,  
with gladness now they sing  
And finally she enters  
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,  
his sons upon the earth  
And ev'ry generation  
will tell of his great worth  
All nations will soon praise him  
and fall down at his feet  
His kingdom established,  
where truth and mercy meet  
O Jesus we adore you,  
our lover and our king  
Your church, your bride is waiting  
and so to you we sing

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## 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 God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,  
And that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;  
Not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires  
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.  
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,  
Seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

### *Assurance of Pardon*

*"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." (Rom 8:1-2)*

### *Before the Throne of God Above*

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea  
A great High Priest whose name is love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me  
My name is graven on His hands  
My name is written on His heart  
I know that while in heav'n He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin  
Because the sinless Saviour died  
My sinful soul is counted free  
For God the Just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there, the risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless Righteousness  
The great unchangeable I AM  
The King of glory and of grace

One with Himself, I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high  
With Christ my Saviour and my God  
With Christ my Saviour and my God

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### *Psalm 116:12-19*

What shall I render to the Lord for all his  
benefits to me?

**I will lift up the cup of salvation and  
call on the name of the Lord,**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the  
presence of all his people.

**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the  
death of his saints.**

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your  
servant, the son of your maidservant.

You have loosed my bonds.

**I will offer to you the sacrifice of  
thanksgiving and call on the name of  
the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the  
presence of all his people,

**in the courts of the house of the  
Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the Lord!**

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!**

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## God's Word

*First Reading: Heb 11:8-16, p. 1007*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Second Reading: Gen 23, p. 16*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Hope Beyond the Grave (Mark Payne)*

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## *Baptism of the Billen Family*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

**We will, with God's help.**

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant in the words of the Apostle's Creed...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He 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.**

## *Oh How Good It Is*

Oh how good it is  
when the family of God  
Dwell together in spirit,  
in love and unity;  
Where the bonds of peace,  
of acceptance and love  
Are the fruits of his presence  
here among us.

*So with one voice  
we'll sing to the Lord,  
And with one heart  
we'll live out his word  
Til the whole world sees  
the Redeemer has come,  
For he dwells in the presence  
of his people.*

Oh how good it is  
on this journey we share  
To rejoice with the happy  
and weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength,  
the afflicted find grace,  
When we offer the blessing  
of belonging.

Oh how good it is  
to embrace his command  
To prefer one another,  
forgive as he forgives.  
When we live as one  
we all share in the love  
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

## *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.**

## The Lord's Supper

### *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Father, as we have received  
these gifts of bread and wine,  
you have fed us with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood  
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,  
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. "*Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce.*" (Prov 3:9)

## *Psalm 117 (Praise The Lord O All You Nations)*

Praise the Lord, O all you nations;  
all you peoples, sing his praise.  
For his love is great towards us;  
his commitment lasts always.  
He is faithful now and ever.  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

## **Benediction**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ, Amen.**

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## Notices

**Please diarise and pray for the items below:**

<b>THIS WEEK</b>		
<b>Mon, Wed</b>	<b>Fellowship Groups</b>	Continuing series in Joshua
<b>Thu 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	7:15pm on zoom
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	Ascension of Christ
<b>FURTHER AHEAD</b>		
<b>-TBD-</b>	<b>Annual Church Meeting</b>	Date after exam season finishes