



The Kingdom Parables of Jesus: The Ten Virgins

*“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”
(Matt 25.13)*

Call to Worship

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence
with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise
to him with songs of praise!** *(Psalm 95: 1,2)*

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)

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy temple;
praise the LORD in heavens high.
Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his majesty.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him for his majesty.

Praise him with the clash of cymbals;
with loud cymbals praise accord.
Praise him, everything that's breathing!
Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Hallelujah! Praise the LORD!

Praise him with the sounding trumpet;
praise him with the harp and lute.
Praise with tambourine and dancing,
praise him with the strings and flute.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him with the strings and flute.

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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

*Charitie Bancroft, Vikki Cook.
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Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord are like
Mount Zion, which cannot be moved,
but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people, from
this time forth and forevermore.**

For the sceptre of wickedness shall not
rest on the land allotted to the
righteous,
**lest the righteous stretch out their
hands to do wrong.**

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright
in their hearts!

**But those who turn aside to their
crooked ways the Lord will lead away
with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!**

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**

Psalm 125

All who, with heart confiding,
Depend on God alone,
Like Zion's mount abiding,
Shall ne'er be overthrown.
Like Zion's city, bounded
By guarding mountains broad,
His people are surrounded
Forever by their God.

No sceptre of oppression
Shall hold unbroken sway,
Lest unto base transgression
The righteous turn away.

Thy favour be imparted
To godly men, O Lord,
Bless all that are pure-hearted,
The good with good reward.

The men who falsehood cherish,
Forsaking truth and right,
With wicked men shall perish;
God will their sins requite.
From sin Thy saints defending,
Their joy, O Lord, increase,
With mercy never ending
And everlasting peace.

God's Word

First Reading: Rev 1:1-20, "Christ Amidst the Lampstands", p. 1028

This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Matt 24:32-25:13, p. 830

This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: The Ten Virgins (Mark Payne)

Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)

Believer, what is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,
am not my own, but belong to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ,
who with His precious blood has fully satisfied for all my sins,
and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;
and so preserves me that without the will of my Father in heaven
not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.
Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,
and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.**

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

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb
who bears our sins away,
Slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made
that all who come in faith,
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace,
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ,
Torn for you: eat and remember,
The wounds that heal,
the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice;
As a sign of our bonds of love,
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses
every stain of sin,
Shed for you: drink and remember.
He drained death's cup
that all may enter in,
To receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace,
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness
and faith
We rise to respond: and to remember
Our call to follow
in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King.

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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.**

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Cor 9:6-7)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Benediction

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

Notes & Notices

Kingdom Parables of Jesus

Kingdom Growth & Judgement (ch. 13)

- Sower.
- Weeds.
- Mustard Seed.
- Leaven.

Kingdom Fruitfulness & Judgement (ch. 21, 22)

- Fig Tree.
- Two Sons.
- Tenants.
- Wedding Feast.

Kingdom Citizens Readiness & Final Judgement (ch. 25)

- Ten Virgins.
- Talents.

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

NEXT WEEK		
Mon 12, Wed 13 Sep	Fellowship Groups	Joshua
Thu 15 Sep	Prayer Meeting	On Zoom
Fri 16 Sep	Bert Rings' Funeral	10am at Salisbury Crematorium with refreshments at CCS afterwards
Sun 18 Sep	Morning Worship	

FURTHER AHEAD		
Wed 28 Sep	Annual Church Mtg	Note - Change of date