



A New Beginning

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,” (Col 2:13)

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. (Isa 12:2)

**Sing praises to the LORD,
for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.** (Isa 12:5)

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.

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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Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)

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 1:8-9)

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

Please kneel or be seated.

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

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

Psalm 1: How Blessed the Man

How blessed the man
who does not walk
Where wicked men
would guide his feet,
Who does not stand
in sinners' paths
Or sit upon
the scorners' seat.
The law of God
is his delight,
His meditation
day and night.

He prospers like
a tree, which has
Been planted by
a flowing stream,
And in its season
yields its fruit;
Its leaves are always
fresh and green.
In every act
and every word
He knows the blessing
of the LORD.

Not so the wicked:
they are like
The chaff the wind
will blow away.
They will not in
the judgement stand,
Nor sinners with
the righteous stay.

God knows the way
the righteous go;
The wicked's way
he'll overthrow.

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Responsive Verses: Isaiah 42:1-9

Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

**He will not cry aloud or lift up his
voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not
quench; he will faithfully bring forth
justice.**

He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the
earth; and the coastlands wait for his
law.

**Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and
stretched them out, who spread out
the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:**

"I am the Lord;
I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the
people, a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the
dungeon, from the prison those who sit
in darkness.

**I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.**

Behold, the former things have come to
pass, and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth I tell you of
them."

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: Lev 26:40-46, p. 105

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Col 2:11-15, p. 984

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: A New Beginning (Mark Payne)

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought
and storm.

What heights of love,
what depths of peace
When fears are stilled,
when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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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.

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

Almighty and eternal God,

We thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, and of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory. Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)

Psalm 23 (Townend): The Lord's My Shepherd

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.

Chorus

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.

Chorus

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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 WEEK		
Thurs 5th Jan	Psalm Sing	7.15pm at church
Sun 8th Jan	Morning Worship	
FURTHER AHEAD		
Thurs 9th Mar	Bi-Annual Church Meeting	
Sat / Sun 18th-19th Mar	Church Family Weekend	

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV); CCLI No: 731672.