



*The Incomparable Christ
Free in Him*

*“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world,
why, as if you were still alive in the world,
do you submit to regulations?” (Col 2:20)*

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.

**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 Come, Let Us Joyfully Sing to the LORD (Psalm 95)

O come, let us joyfully
sing to the LORD;
To the Rock of salvation
let us raise our voice.
Let us come before him
expressing our thanks;
Let us with loud singing
praise him and rejoice.

The LORD is the great God,
King over all gods.
The earth's deepest places
he holds in his hand;
The heights of the mountains
belong to the LORD.
The oceans are his,
and he formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow humbly
and worship the LORD;
Let us kneel before him,
our Maker, in prayer.
For we are his people
and he is our God;
He shepherds and feeds us
in his loving care.

Today if you hear and
attend to his voice,
Don't harden your hearts
as you did on the way;
In Meribah's desert
you quarrelled with me,
You tested my patience
at Massah that day.

Your fathers provoked me
and tested me there,
Although they had witnessed
the works I had done.
With that generation
for forty long years
My deep indignation
continued to burn.

I said, "They're a people
whose hearts go astray;
They do not acknowledge
that my ways are best."
And so, in my anger,
I stated on oath,
"I swear that they never
shall enter my rest."

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

*"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)*

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 Saviour 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!

God's Word

First Reading: Jer 1:1-19: Summoned to serve, p. 627

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm : Psalm 119: 1-16

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous rules. I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!

With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

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

Second Reading: Col 2:16-23, p. 984

This is the Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Incomparable Christ: Free in Him (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.

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
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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

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, of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, and 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. *"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)*

Psalm 146

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
Nor for help on man depend;
They shall die, to dust returning,
And their purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blest whose hope of blessing
On the Lord his God is stayed.
Heaven and earth the Lord created,
Seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
Righteousness He will maintain.
Food He daily gives the hungry,

Sets the mourning prisoner free,
Raises those bowed down
with anguish,
Makes the sightless eyes to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
And the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless
and the widow,
Judgement on the wicked sends.

*Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
Through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, your God, O Zion,
Joyful hallelujahs sing.*

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:

<i>IN THE WEEK</i>		
Tues 17th Jan	Food and Chat	Speak to Jenny
Thu 19th Jan	Prayer Meeting	7.15pm in church
Sun 22nd Jan	Morning Worship	
<i>FURTHER AHEAD</i>		
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)