



God's Word in the Prophet

“Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.” (Jer 1:9-10)

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.**

Psalm 139. Your Hand Upon Me.

O Lord You have searched me,
and You know my ways;
You perceive all my thoughts from afar.
Your hand is upon me wherever I go;
before I can speak, You already know

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
You are there;
If I rest on the far side of the sea,
Your love hems me in
both behind and before;
You have laid Your hand upon me;
You have laid Your hand upon me.*

Where can I flee
from Your presence, O Lord?
If I sleep in the depths,
You are there.
Your day will consume
all the shadows of night;
The dark cannot hide
from Your brilliant light.

Chorus

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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.

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise. For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)

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)

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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God's Word

First Reading: Matt 1:1-15, "The King has Come", p. 807

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

Psalm 110

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty sceptre. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

He will execute judgement among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

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: Jer 1:1-19, p. 627

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

Sermon: God's Word in the Prophet (Mark Payne)

Psalm 145. God My King.

God my king, I will extol you,
bless your name forevermore.
Every day, I'll sing your goodness,
hymn the greatness of the Lord.
You are praised through generations,
of your works we'll always tell.
We will praise your matchless goodness,
praise the God of Israel.

God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, rich in love.
He is good to all his creatures,
showers blessings from above.
All your works shall bless and thank you,
tell of all your mighty deeds,
celebrate your wondrous kingdom,
You shall reign in majesty.

Lord your throne will last forever,
You will reign from age to age.
You are faithful to your promise,
You are kind in all your ways.
You uphold the weak and falling,
give your strength to weary feet,
from your hand you pour forth blessing,
Satisfy our every need.

God is righteous to His promise.
He is kind in all His ways.
He is near to those who seek him,
yet the wicked casts away.
He fulfils the good desire
of his saints who fear His name.
Let all peoples praise His goodness
and forever sing His praise.

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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.**

Please be seated.

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, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

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.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

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,
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. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Pro 3:9)*

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
of our suff'ring seem so long;
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
threaten silence to our song.
Now our pain is real and pressing
where our faith is thin and weak,
But our hope is set on Jesus;
and we cling to him, our strength.

Oh, eternal weight of glory!
Oh, inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
every past and future time.
All our pains will be transfigured,
like the scars of Christ our Lord.
We will see the weight of glory,
and our broken years restored.

*For behold! I tell a myst'ry:
At the trumpet sound we'll wake!
"Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!"
when we meet our King of Grace.
Every year we thought was wasted,
every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
in our Saviour's vict'ry song*

We will see our wounded Saviour,
we'll behold him face to face;
And we'll hear our anguished stories
sung as vict'ry songs of grace.

Chorus

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Benediction

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

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

IN THE COMING WEEK		
Alan will advise	Fellowship Group (A)	
Wed 10 th May	Fellowship Group (M)	The Lord's Prayer (Forgive us...)
Thu 11 th May	Prayer Meeting (Online)	Start 7:15pm
Sun 14 th May	Sunday Worship	Jer 2:1-19, "Love Betrayed"
FURTHER AHEAD		
Tue 16 th May	Food & Chat	Start 6:30pm. Speak to Jenny.

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

The Book of Jeremiah

Theme

In ch 1:9, 10 we're given the theme of the book in poetic form, which is also the heart of God's message to Judah through Jeremiah. *"Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, 'Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."*

Jeremiah would go on to take God's word to Judah, under 5 kings, for over 40 years.

Structure

It's important to see that the book of Jeremiah is not a chronological account, but rather one that moves between different camera angles, giving us a number of perspectives of God's dealings with the people of Judah and of the full unfolding of redemption in Christ. The structure is unusual and can be confusing with *Restoration* featuring before *Judgement* (see below). It does, however, reflect what we see in the thematic verse above of plucking up and destroying. But not without hope - there will be building and planting in the future. Commentators differ significantly on how the book reflects this thematic verse, but broadly speaking we have the following, which we will use to frame our sermon series:

- Ch. 1. Introduction. God's word goes out through His prophet.
- Ch. 2-29. Sin that will bring judgement.
- Ch. 30-33. Restoration will come.
- Ch. 34-51. Judgement on Judah and the nations.
- Ch. 52. Epilogue. The Fall of Jerusalem.

Biblical Historical Setting

- Long before Jeremiah, the Lord covenanted with Abraham that his people would inherit the promised land and would be blessed (Gen 17:6-8).
- The people did multiply (Ex 1:7), God brought them out of Egypt where they were in captivity and made a covenant with them at Sinai (Ex 3-Num 10). He then renewed the covenant with them (Deuteronomy) and gave them the land (Joshua).
- He also made additional promises: he swore that the sons of Levi would be his priests forever (Num 25:12-13), and that the son of David would reign and establish his house forever (2 Sam 7:13-16).
- Solomon, David's son, built the temple and dedicated it to the Lord, which God blessed with his presence (1 Kings 8). But all was not well, and Solomon prevailed on the Lord to hear and forgive them when they fell (1 Kings 8:45-53).
- Sadly, Solomon himself then led the way into idolatry (1 Kings 11:4). His son Rehoboam compounded the situation and split the nation in two: the northern tribes (henceforth called Israel) and the southern tribes (Judah). Israel, lacking

any good king, quickly fell into sin and, despite the warnings of prophets like Hosea, refused to repent. And so the Lord sent the Assyrian army in judgement, which defeated and deported the people of Israel in 722 B.C.

- Judah was graciously delivered from Assyria at the last moment through the prayer of Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:14-17). Despite this, Hezekiah's godly reign was followed by the evil rule of Manasseh (687 B.C. - 643 B.C.), marked by the worship of false gods in the temple, sacrificing his own children as burnt offerings, consulting with the occult, and the shedding of much innocent blood (2 Kings 21:3-16). He provoked the Lord to anger, and the Lord resolved to judge them as he had done with Israel (2 Kings 21:10-15).
- Shortly after Manasseh, Judah had one last good king: Josiah, a contemporary of Jeremiah. He restored worship and reverence for Scripture, and sought to establish justice in the land.
- But did this change people's hearts, and would they avoid the promised judgement - the looming danger of Babylon? This is when Jeremiah received his call from the Lord in 627 B.C.

Subsequent Timeline (Rulers of Judah underlined)

640 B.C.	<u>Josiah</u> becomes king at the age of 8.
627 B.C.	Jeremiah, a young man at the time (perhaps younger than 20) is called by the Lord (Jer 1:1-19). So he was of similar age to Josiah.
609 BC	Josiah dies in battle against Pharaoh Neco. <u>Jehoahaz</u> reigns briefly; Neco replaces him with <u>Jehoiakim</u> .
605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) wins the battle of Carchemish against the Assyrians and Babylon becomes the dominant power.
598 BC	Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar comes to reconquer Judah, but Jehoiakim dies and his son <u>Jehoiachin</u> reigns.
597 BC	Jehoiachin surrenders to Nebuchadnezzar, preventing a siege. Nebuchadnezzar exiles the elite citizens (including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel) and establishes <u>Zedekiah</u> in Jehoiachin's place.
589 BC	Zedekiah rebels, and Nebuchadnezzar returns to besiege Jerusalem.
587 BC	After a long siege (~18 months), Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians. The temple and city are destroyed, and Nebuchadnezzar exiles many Judeans and establishes <u>Gedaliah</u> as governor. Jeremiah remains in Judea.
c. 582 BC	Gedaliah is assassinated, and Jeremiah is dragged to Egypt with other Judeans.

