



Sin Unveiled: Dark Times

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended.” (Jer 19:11)

Call to Worship

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,
who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

**Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the LORD!**

**May the LORD bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!**

(Ps 134)

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 34

Tell his praise in song and story,
bless the Lord with heart and voice;
in my God is all my glory,
come before him and rejoice.
Join to praise his name together,
he who hears his people's cry;
tell his praise, come wind or weather,
shining faces lifted high.

To the Lord whose love has found them
cry the poor in their distress;
swift his angels camped around them
prove him sure to save and bless.
God it is who hears our crying
though the spark of faith be dim;
Taste and see, beyond denying
blessed are those who trust in him.

Taste and see, in faith draw near him,
trust the Lord with all your powers;
seek and serve him, love and fear him,
life and all its joys are ours:
true delight in holy living,
peace and plenty, length of days;
come, my children, with thanksgiving,
bless the Lord in songs of praise.

In our need he walks beside us,
ears alert to every cry;
watchful eyes to guard and guide us,
love that whispers 'It is I'.
Good shall triumph, wrong be righted,
God has pledged his promised word;
so with ransomed saints united,
join to praise our living Lord!

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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

"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."

(Ps 32:3-5)

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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God's Word

First Reading: Matt 3:13-4:11, The Trinity in Salvation

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

Psalm 113

Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

**Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!
Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens
and the earth?

**He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother
of children.
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!**

Second Reading: Jer 11, p. 774

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

Sermon: Sin Unveiled: Dark Times (David Thornhill-Smith)

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt
blow through me
And my sails have all been torn.
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on,
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won;
Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief;
Hopeless somehow,
O my soul, now
Lift your eyes to Calvary.
This, my ballast of assurance;
See His love forever proved;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.

Christ, the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death,
When these trials give way to glory,
As we draw our final breath;
We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure,
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endure.

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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)

Psalm 57. Be Thou, O God, Exalted High.

Be Thou, O God, exalted high;
And as Your glory fills the sky,
So let it be on earth displayed,
Till You are here, as there, obeyed;
Till You are here, as there, obeyed.

Awake, my glory; harp and lute,
No longer let your strings be mute;
And I, my tuneful part to take,
Will with the early dawn awake;
Will with the early dawn awake.

O God, my heart is fixed, 'tis bent
Its thankful tribute to present;
And, with my heart, my voice I'll raise
To You, my God, in songs of praise;
To You, my God, in songs of praise.

Your praises, Lord, I will resound
To all the list'ning nations 'round;
Your mercy highest heav'n transcends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends;
Your truth beyond the clouds extends.

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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:

Thu 15 th June	Prayer Meeting at church, 7:15pm	Acts 20:17-36 (Paul and the Ephesian Elders)
Sun 18 th June	Sunday Worship	Jer 21-29 (Sin Unveiled: Difficult Words)

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

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah was called to take God's words to the people of Judah during a revival under King Josiah in 627 B.C. and continued doing so until the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians forty years later. His task was to hammer home the message that their fall was not due to any lack on God's part but was due entirely to their unfaithfulness, to listening to false prophets rather than true ones, and to living lives in service of evil.

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. We can summarise the message for us as:

Hearing Hope in Words of Judgment. *"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.'"*

Structure

The book is not set out chronologically, but rather moves between different camera angles, giving various perspectives of God's dealings with the people of Judah and of the full unfolding of redemption in Christ. The structure can be confusing as *Restoration* features before *Judgement* (see below). It does, however, reflect the thematic verse above of *plucking up* and *destroying*, but not without hope - the promise includes *building* and *planting*. Jeremiah foretold a return from exile and a new covenant in which God's people would at last be His people, and would truly look to Him as their God. Israel and Judah would be reunited and finally fulfil their calling to bring light to the world.

Commentators differ significantly on how the book reflects this thematic verse, but broadly speaking we have the following, which frames our sermon series:

Outline

1. Prologue
 - a. God's Word in Jeremiah (ch. 1)
2. Sin Unveiled
 - a. Despicable Adultery (ch. 2-6)
 - b. Deceitful Idolatry (ch. 7-10)
 - c. Dark Times (ch. 11-20)
 - d. Difficult Words (ch. 21-29)
3. Restoration Promised
 - a. Rejoice in Hope! (ch. 30-33)
4. Judgement Assured
 - a. Judah Faces Judgement (ch. 34-45)
 - b. The Nations Face Judgement (ch. 46-51)
5. Epilogue
 - a. The Fall of Jerusalem (ch. 52)