



## *Hope Amidst Judgement*

*“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)*

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### 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 100

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth,  
his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his flock, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto:  
Praise, laud, and bless  
his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

*William Kethe (1594)*

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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:

*"Whoever conceals his transgressions  
will not prosper, but he who confesses  
and forsakes them will obtain mercy."*

*(Prov 28:13)*

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*

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

*“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.” (Ps 103:8-14)*

## *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood  
and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

When weary in this earthly race,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in every wild and stormy gale  
my anchor holds and will not fail.

His vow, his covenant and blood  
are my defence against the flood;  
when earthly hopes  
are swept away  
he will uphold me on that day.

When the last trumpet's  
voice shall sound,  
O may I then in him be found!  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before his throne.

*Edward Mote (1879-1874)  
© Jubilate Hymns Ltd*

## God's Word

*Matt 5:27-37, p. 810. Love your enemies*

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

*Psalm 117-118:1-18*

Praise the LORD, all nations!  
Extol him, all peoples!  
**For great is his steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever.**  
**Praise the LORD!**

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say,  
**“His steadfast love endures for ever.”**  
Let the house of Aaron say,  
**“His steadfast love endures for ever.”**  
Let those who fear the LORD say,  
**“His steadfast love endures for ever.”**

Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?  
**The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.**

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.  
It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

All nations surrounded me;  
**in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**  
They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;  
**in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**  
They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns;  
**in the name of the LORD I cut them off!**  
I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.  
**Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD does valiantly, the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.  
**The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.**

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 52, p. 683*

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

*Sermon: Hope Amidst Judgement (Mark Payne)*

*Psalm 13. O Lord, how long?*

O Lord, how long  
how long will you forget me?  
O Lord, how long  
will you conceal your face?  
O Lord, how long  
will sorrows rise within me,  
and will my heart  
know anguish all the day?  
O Lord, how long,  
give ear to hear my cry.  
I look to you, or Lord I surely die.

Light up my eyes  
when all around is darkness.  
Turn back your face,  
and hear me when I call.  
Consider me,  
incline your ear and answer.

Or will my foes  
rejoice to see my fall?  
Light up my eyes!  
For you O Lord I wait.  
I look to you,  
O Lord do not delay.

But I will trust  
in your unfailing mercy.  
I will delight  
in your unending grace.  
My soul will sing  
as I await the morning.  
I will rejoice,  
though sorrow fills my days.  
Yes, I will trust  
in you, my gracious Lord,  
You have been good,  
and shall be evermore.

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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.*

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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)

## Doxology

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

Amen

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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 following:**

This Coming Week...		
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Fellowship Group (Alan)	
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Fellowship Group (Mark)	Summer Social
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> July	Film Night	Speak to Alan Steele
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Morning Worship	1 Tim 1:12-17 (Trustworthy Sayings)
Further Ahead...		
Every Tue in Aug	Tots and Toys	Please pray
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Church Picnic & Thornhill-S Farewell	

*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. *"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.'"*

We can summarise the message for us as: **Hearing Hope in Words of Judgment.**

### 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. Hope Amidst Judgement (ch. 52)