



Love the Law, Love your Neighbour

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:20)

Call to Worship

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.

**Yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head above all.**

(1 Chr 29:11)

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.**

Lord, You Have Ever Been Our Dwelling Place (Psalm 90, I)

Lord, you have ever
been our dwelling place.
Before you made
the world of time and space,
Before you made
the mountains and the earth,
You are eternal God;
you gave them birth.

You turn all people
back to dust and say,
"O human race,
to dust again decay."
Because a thousand
years are in your sight
Like yesterday
or like a watch by night.

Into death's sleep
you sweep them all away,
For they are like
the grass at break of day—
Although it springs up
new with morning light,
It dries and perishes
before the night.

Your wrath consumes us;
we are terrified.
Before your gaze
our sins we cannot hide.
Under your anger
all our days pass by;
Our years come to their finish
with a sigh.

Our years amount to
seventy in length,
Or even eighty
if we have the strength.
And yet our days
in grief and pain are passed;
They quickly end;
away we fly at last.

The power of your anger
who can know?
Your wrath's as great
as is the fear we owe.
Teach us to number
all our days aright;
So will our hearts
be filled with wisdom's light.

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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.**

*“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 Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. 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)

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
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
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
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

God's Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 5:1-33, p. 150

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm : Psalm 119: 1-8

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!

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: Matt 5:17-48, p. 810

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Love the Law, Love your Neighbour (Mark Payne)

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Robert Robinson, 1758

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

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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." (Prov 3:9)*

Psalm 90 (II)

Return, O Lord!
How long will you delay?
Have mercy on your servants,
Lord, we pray.
O satisfy us with your love always,
That we may sing,
rejoicing all our days.

In place of our affliction,
make us glad;
Give joy for all the
years you made us sad.

To all your servants
may your deeds be shown,
And to their children
make your glory known.

Now may the favour
of Almighty God
Abide on us—rich blessings of our Lord.
Establish every work
our hands have done;
Yes, Lord, for us establish
them each one.

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Benediction and Dismissal

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

Notes & Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

THIS WEEK		
Mon 7th Jan	Fellowship Group	
Wed 9th Jan	Fellowship Group	
Thu 10th Jan	Prayer Meeting	7.15pm. Online. Details to be circulated.
Sun 14th Jan	Morning Worship	Matt 6:1-4, Giving to those in need

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