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## *Righteousness and Trustworthiness*

*“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” (Matt 5:37)*

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### Call to Worship

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
forever and ever. Amen!**

*(Rev 5:12-13)*

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 63 (O Lord My God Most Earnestly)*

O LORD, my God, most earnestly  
I seek your holy face,  
within your house again to see  
the glories of your grace.  
Apart from you I long and thirst,  
and naught can satisfy;  
I wander in a desert land  
where all the streams are dry.

The loving-kindness of my God  
is more than life to me,  
so I will praise you all my days  
and pray continually.

In you my soul is satisfied,  
my darkness turns to light,  
and joyful meditations fill  
the watches of the night.

Beneath the shadow of your wings  
I sing my joy and praise.  
Your right hand is my strong support  
through troubled nights and days.  
All those who seek my life will fall;  
my life is in your hand.  
God's king and people will rejoice;  
in victory they will stand.

*George. C. Stebbins (1878)*

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

*“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 1:8-9)

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)*

## *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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## God's Word

### *Genesis 1 (p. 1)*

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

### *Psalms 78:56-72*

Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies, but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow.

**For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols. When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.**

He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.

**He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage. Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.**

Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation. Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.

**And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame.**

He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim, but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves.

**He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.**

He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds; from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

**With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.**

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 5:33-37 (p. 810); 23:16-22 (p. 828)*

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

*Sermon: Righteousness and Trustworthiness (Mark Payne)*

### *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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*

### *I Call Upon the LORD in my Distress (Psalm 120)*

I call upon the LORD  
in my distress;  
He listens to my prayer  
and answers me.  
Deliver me, O LORD,  
from lying lips  
And from all tongues  
that speak deceitfully.

What will he do to you,  
deceitful tongue?  
What more besides  
will be your fitting doom?

With warriors' arrows  
he will pierce you through,  
And punish you  
with burning coals of broom.

What misery  
to live in Meshech's land,  
In Kedar's tents,  
among my enemies!  
With people loving strife  
I've lived too long;  
They are for war,  
but I'm a man of peace.

# 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.**

## *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." (Prov 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.**

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## Notes & Notices

**Please diarise and pray for the following:**

| <b><i>THIS WEEK</i></b>        |                                   |                                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | <b>Fellowship group</b>           | Ref. Alan                        |
| <b>Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | <b>Women in the Word</b>          | Ref. Hilary                      |
| <b>Thu 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>  | <b>Church Meeting re Building</b> | 7:00 for 7:15pm at the church    |
| <b>Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>  | <b>Morning Worship</b>            | Tom Underhill from Emmanuel Bath |

| <b><i>FURTHER AHEAD</i></b> |                               |                  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>TBA (Feb)</b>            | <b>Men's Ministry Meeting</b> | Ref. Alan Steele |