



The Overflow of the Heart

“And he called the people to him and said to them, ‘Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.’”
(Matt 15:10)

Call to Worship

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the roar of many waters and like the sound
of mighty peals of thunder, crying out:

Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice

and exult

and give Him the glory.”

(Rev 19:6-7)

Let us pray.

May the words of our mouths

and the meditations of our hearts

be acceptable in your sight,

our Rock and our Redeemer.

Amen.

(Ps 19:14)

Psalm 92 (It is Good to Sing Your Praises)

It is good to sing Your praises
and to thank You, O Most High,
showing forth Your lovingkindness
when the morning lights the sky.

It is good when night is falling
of Your faithfulness to tell,
while with sweet, melodious praises,
songs of adoration swell.

You have filled our hearts with gladness
at the works Your hands have wrought;
You have made our lives victorious;
great Your works
and deep Your thoughts.

You, O Lord, on high exalted,
reign forevermore in might;
all Your enemies shall perish,
sin be banished from Your sight.

But the good shall live before You,
planted in Your dwelling place,
fruitful trees and ever verdant,
nourished by Your boundless grace.
In His goodness to the righteous,
God His righteousness displays;
God our Rock,
our Strength and Refuge,
just and true are all Your ways!

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Rowland H. Prichard (1830)

Confession and Assurance

We are reminded that to love God should be our highest priority:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deut 6:4-7)

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)*

We will 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

“The LORD, the LORD, is a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” (Ex 34:6-7)

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

*© Wendell Kimbrough, 2015
Ref: 2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Cor 15:54-55*

God's Word

First Reading: Neh 8:1-12, p. 403

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm: Ps 42

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" **These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**

My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. **Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.**

Second Reading: Matt 15:1-20, p. 820

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Overflow of the Heart (Rev. Stuart Hull)

By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. **I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"**

As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" **Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**

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!**

Psalm 19 (The Heavens, O Lord, Proclaim Your Power)

The heav'ns, O Lord,
proclaim Your pow'r;
creation sings Your fame.
The handiwork of all the world
speaks of Your holy name.
Each day breaks forth with its own song;
night follows with its mirth.
Their melodies
are sweet and strong,
resounding through the earth.

The heav'ns are like a well-pitched tent,
spread firmly o'er the earth,
from which the sun
breaks forth with strength,
to bring the day to birth.
That living law which calls it forth
revives the weary soul.
Its witness to Your glorious works
gives hope and makes us whole.

Your law is perfect and secure;
it makes our hearts rejoice.
Like precious gold,
like honeycomb,
it is a priceless choice.
In keeping it we find reward,
of life, and strength, and health.
These come to those
who keep Your law;
can there be greater wealth?

We cannot, Lord, discern our faults,
nor know how much we err.
So keep us from
unthinking sin,
that Your life we may share.
So let our words and all our thoughts
be centered on Your grace,
that, living life within Your law,
we soon shall see Your face.

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Creed (Heidelberg Catechism)

Since the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all through the righteousness of Christ, without any merit of our own, why should we do good works?

**Because when the goodness and loving kindness
of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us,
not because of works done by us in righteousness,
but according to his own mercy,
by the washing of regeneration
and renewal of the Holy Spirit,
whom he poured out on us richly
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
so that being justified by his grace
we might become heirs
according to the hope of eternal life,
and having believed in God,
devote ourselves to good works.
Amen.**

(Titus 3:4-8)

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

Heavenly Father, we offer you eternal praise and thanks that you have so blessed us poor sinners, that we would be drawn into the communion of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whom you have delivered to death for us, and whom you have given us as the food and drink of life eternal. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, and 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.
"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)

Jerusalem the Golden

Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blessed,
beneath your contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not,
what joys await us there,
what radiance of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

There is the throne of David,
and there, from care released,
the shout of those who triumph,
the song of those who feast.
And they, who with their Leader,
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever,
are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country,
that eager hearts expect
Jesus, in mercy brings us
to that dear land of rest;
who are, with God the Father
and Spirit ever blessed!

*Bernard of Cluny (1145)
Translator: J. M. Neale
(Rev. 21-22)*

Benediction & Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Notices

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

<i>Coming up...</i>		
Tue 28 th Jan	Women in the Word	7:30 pm. Ref Hilary
Thu 30 th Jan	Good News UK (formerly Gideon's) at St. Francis	7 pm
Sun 2 nd Feb	Morning Worship (Matt 15:21-39, "Gentiles in the Kingdom")	10 am