

6th November, 2022

The paper-version Service



To Begin: Find a Bible and a comfortable place. If safe,

light a candle and read prayerfully through the service. If you have access to worship music, choose a song and listen to it

as you begin or read, or even sing, the song from this Sunday's Service.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.**

Song:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my
Father,
There is no shadow of turning with
Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,
they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt
be.

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I
see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath
provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto
me!



The Good
Shepherd
Four Marks

Responding to God's Love

Summer and winter, and springtime
and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses
above,
Join with all nature in manifold
witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and
love.

Great is Thy faithfulness ...

Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer
and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope
for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness ...

1 John 4 – We live in Truth. Sermon by Rev. Howard Wright

Our passage today builds on foundations already laid to encourage us to build firm foundations in our own lives – I'd encourage you to re-read the whole letter of 1 John.

1. Recognise the truth – Jesus, has come in the flesh (born of Mary) and is from God!

Jesus is fully human. There are verified stories of his existence as a human man.

He was born biologically and grew normally. He had human emotions, human experiences and died a human death.

AND, Jesus is fully God. His conception was miraculous. His teaching was extraordinary and miracles otherworldly. His life fulfilled prophecies given over hundreds of years. He rose physically from the dead, as is well attested, and ascended bodily into heaven.

C S Lewis wrote: *'You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ... Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God.'*

Read Colossians 1:15-20

2. Live Christianly, in this truth, don't be deceived by the world's lies.

Jesus is so wonderful and central to our very existence, it is all about Jesus!

Are our lives built upon him? Are we living – worshipping – in Spirit and Truth? Have we 'overcome' the lies and liars. *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.* (v.4). It might seem that the untruth might have won. See v.5. Because the world wants to hear its own stuff. Read, 2 Timothy 4:3-4

The world today needs hope. There is uncertainty globally, instability internationally, with volatile economics exacerbated by war, pandemic, and the on-

going environmental challenges. There is uncertainty nationally, with turbulent politics and economics. And there is uncertainty individually, with cost of living challenges, health concerns and our own mortality laid bare by age.

Two of the lies of our age are: Firstly, we're doomed! We are without hope. Which leads to fear and anxiety. And secondly, we're fine! we (science, politicians – someone else – a human messiah) can fix this. Which leads to self-indulgence, and/or pride, and ultimately, complacency. And if we, as children of God are not careful we get drawn into this.

Many of us wrestle with anxiety, with fear. There are things happening out of our control, in the work place, our families, our friends, the economy and the world.

Others of us treat ourselves to make ourselves feel happy – e.g. retail therapy – or we rest secure, avoiding the questions. Like the foolish man who built on sand, we look good on the outside, but our foundations are weak at risk. The things we trust in are false.

Our first place as children of God, as those who have overcome the lies and liars, and who live by the truth as princes and princesses of the Kingdom, not as beggars scratching in the dirt, is to look to Jesus.

We are not doomed, but we cannot fix this by ourselves. We are able to stand firm in faith, because of the truth of Jesus. Read 1 Cor 1:18-25. We have a certain hope. We need not fear. Read Psalm 46:1-3.

The direct challenge of Satan is, as it was in the Garden of Eden, 'did God really say that?' Our answer must be, 'Yes.' The truth is found in Jesus and his Word. These are absolute!

3. Conclusion:

So how are we doing? To use John's challenges, are we living in the truth or a lie, are we living in the light or darkness, are we living in love or hate. What and who does our lives reflect? The world needs us to live in this hope daily and share the truth with all.

Heavenly Father, give me the courage and strength today to live in your truth, light, and love and share these with your world. Amen.

Prayers: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

(Philippians 4:4-6)

- Pray for this day, and the coming week.
- Pray for justice, mercy, peace, and hope.
- Pray for individuals, neighbours, and for family & friends.
- Pray for the Church.



Collect: Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.*

Blessing to be declared over yourselves, The Good Shepherd, the communities around us and our whole nation. 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26 NIV).

The Notices: We are now holding services in the building on Sundays at 8am and 9.30am, and are live streaming the 9.30 service. This Paper Service will continue for the moment and is generally available the week after the service.

- Tea and Chat & Bowls: Wed. 16th Nov. at 2pm, Church Hall and Church.
- Coffee and Questions: 23rd Nov. at 11am in Church Hall.
- COGS Tots: 2nd Mondays. COGS Tinytots: Monday mornings.
- Messy Church: Second Sundays of the month.