



10am Congregation 29 March 2020

After the service, please join us for online morning tea from around 10:45am. To do so, [click this link](#) (you may be asked to download some software. Simply follow the prompts).

We would love to hear from you, so [please fill in a connect card](#). You can leave us a prayer or aid request, a comment, feedback, or we can organise for someone to give you a call this week.

This week we have continued to experience deep changes in our lives. And yet despite the shifting of the times, our Lord and creator loves us, sustains us, and continues to rule. Let's use this prayer assembled from words in Revelation (4:11; 5:9, 13) to focus our hearts and minds on our slain and risen Lord.

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they were created and have their being.

You are worthy, Lamb of God, for you were slain, and with your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Pray: Thank you, Father, that all Scripture is breathed out by you, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Open our hearts to receive your word, that we may know you better and be thoroughly equipped for every good work, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The many changes we are experiencing can bring about grief in our lives. As you read this Psalm, let its words of lament express some of the grief you may be feeling at this time.

Bible Reading #1 – Psalm 56

To the leader: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. Of David. A Miktam, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

- 1 Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
- 2 my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.
O Most High, 3 when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
- 4 In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?
- 5 All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They stir up strife, they lurk,
they watch my steps.
As they hoped to have my life,
7 so repay them for their crime;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

8 You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?

9 Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.

10 In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
11 in God I trust; I am not afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me?

12 My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.
13 For you have delivered my soul from death,
and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

Bible Reading #2 – Luke 11:29–32

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, “This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. ³⁰ For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. ³¹ The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! ³² The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

Sermon

<https://youtu.be/wOiURI8F2pU>

If you like, spend a few minutes reflecting on the sermon. What stood out to you? What questions do you have? What will you do differently or new this week to live it out?

In Christ Alone

<https://youtu.be/8oivWN4QfRc>

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Confession

Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.*

Let us draw near to God, who freely forgives through his infinite goodness and mercy, and pray to him with sincerity and confidence.

Pray Together:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children and making us heirs of eternal life.

In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight.

Yet we still fail to love you and serve you as we should.

Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow as members of Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion. He forgives all who humbly repent and turn to his Son Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation.

Prayers

Written by Alicia Watson

Loving God through faith in your son Jesus Christ and confident that he is now risen from the dead, may we experience your love and forgiveness in our lives. Give us ears that will hear your call to follow our resurrected Lord and respond with thankful hearts by our love for one another. At this time of crisis throughout the world we remember all who bear the responsibility of leadership. We pray that your truth, mercy and grace would be the guide in all decisions of our political representatives.

We bring before you the people of this world whose lives are threatened by Covid-19. May they be filled with your peace. Give wisdom and strength to doctors and nurses as they diagnose and treat those who have caught this virus and in your divine compassion heal them. We pray too for the researchers seeking a vaccination. Lord show them the paths they must pursue to bring this pandemic under control. We pray also for those whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by joblessness and closure of businesses

Pour your blessings on the leaders of our church today as they lead us through these uncertain times. Especially on our Archbishop Glenn Davies & Di, our Bishop Michael Stead and his wife Felicity, our Rector Michael Jensen & his wife Catherine, our assistant ministers, Tim Escott & his wife Naomi, David Crain & his wife Pam, and our Outreach Minister Erica Oliver

& her husband James, and our Children's Minister Stephanie Leung & her husband Brian. We thank you for the faithful preaching of your word which gives us hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lord be with our brothers and sisters at the Living Water Indigenous fellowship in Redfern. Please keep them safe. We also pray for Rough Edges at St John's Darlinghurst as they minister amongst the homeless and marginalised.

Lord, we are overwhelmed by our situation. We can hardly find words, but we know you understand what we are going through. Oh Father – help us please! We know you promise to never leave us or forsake us. Be with us now - help us to know you are with us. We know you will never let your children slip and fall – please hold us up! Lord, give us the strength we need today to make it through this time of calamity. Give us hope that can only come from you. In Jesus strong name we pray, Amen.

If you would like to do so, also spend some time giving thanks to God and praying for your own concerns.

Pray together: 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 forever. Amen.

Collection

If you do not do so already, please consider giving electronically to the work of the gospel in our parish and beyond.

GIVE

Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer

<https://youtu.be/8POcvNG1lvg>

Guide me O Thou great Redeemer
Pilgrim through this barren land
I am weak but Thou art mighty
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand

Bread of heaven Bread of heaven
Feed me now and ever more
Feed me now and ever more

Open Thou the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through

Strong Deliverer strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield
Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side

Songs and praises songs and praises
I will ever give to Thee
I will ever give to Thee

Closing Prayer

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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Again, [please fill in a connect card](#) and let us know you were here. We'd love to hear from you and serve you however we can.

Otherwise, once you have finished, call or video-chat with someone from church to discuss the readings and sermon and to pray together. Ask them how are they going and if they need anything.
