



20 September 2020
10am Congregation

You can watch the whole service [here](#)

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.

PRAISING GOD

THE PERFECT WISDOM OF OUR GOD

1. The perfect wisdom of our God,
revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand,
and held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas,
the secrets of the stars are His;
he guides the planets on their way,
and turns the earth through another day.

2. The matchless wisdom of His ways,
that mark the path of righteousness;
his word a lamp unto my feet,
his Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And oh, the mystery of the cross,
that God should suffer for the lost
so that the fool might shame the wise,
and all the glory might go to Christ!

3. Oh grant me wisdom from above,
to pray for peace and cling to love,
and teach me humbly to receive
the sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place
within this tapestry of grace;
so through the trials I choose to say:
"Your perfect will in your perfect way."

Stuart Townend

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have often gone our own way, and rejected your will for our lives.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us, and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, and to please you in every way, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

BIBLE READING - Ezra 4:1-24

Tom Bailey

When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord, the God of Israel, ² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of families and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of King Esar-haddon of Assyria who brought us here." ³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of families in Israel said to them, "You shall have no part with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the Lord, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus of Persia has commanded us."

⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and made them afraid to build, ⁵ and they bribed officials to frustrate their plan throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

⁶ In the reign of Ahasuerus, in his accession year, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷ And in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to King Artaxerxes of Persia; the letter was written in Aramaic and translated.

⁸ Rehum the royal deputy and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes as follows ⁹ (then Rehum the royal deputy, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the envoys, the officials, the Persians, the people of Erech, the Babylonians, the people of Susa, that is, the Elamites, ¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River wrote—and now ¹¹ this is a copy of the letter that they sent):

“To King Artaxerxes: Your servants, the people of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now ¹² may it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city; they are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. ¹³ Now may it be known to the king that, if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be reduced.

¹⁴ Now because we share the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king’s dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king, ¹⁵ so that a search may be made in the annals of your ancestors. You will discover in the annals that this is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from long ago. On that account this city was laid waste.

¹⁶ We make known to the king that, if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River.”

¹⁷ The king sent an answer: “To Rehum the royal deputy and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now ¹⁸ the letter that you sent to us has been read in translation before me. ¹⁹ So I made a decree, and someone searched and discovered that this city has risen against kings from long ago, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it. ²⁰ Jerusalem has had mighty kings who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid. ²¹ Therefore issue an order that these people be made to cease, and that this city not be rebuilt, until I make a decree. ²² Moreover, take care not to be slack in this matter; why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?”

²³ Then when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and the scribe Shimshai and their associates, they hurried to the Jews in Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease.

²⁴ At that time the work on the house of God in Jerusalem stopped and was discontinued until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

BIBLE READING - Matthew 2:1-15

Ben Barrack

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

SCRIPTURAL CREED

Jesus Christ, in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYING FOR GOD'S WORLD

PRAYERS

Michael Coyne

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.

TEACHING THE FAITH

SERMON

Tim Escott

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for me,
and hail him as your chosen King
through all eternity.

2. Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angel there on high
Can fully bear that sight
But downwards bends a burning eye
At mysteries so bright.

3. Crown him the Lord of years;
The potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
Majestic and sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For you have died for me;
your praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and
Godfrey Thring (1823-1903)

GOING OUT TO SERVE

GIVING

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

Please follow the link to make an online donation -

<https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord God, we rejoice in your greatness and power, your patience and love, your mercy and justice.

Enable us by your Spirit to honour you in our thoughts, words and actions, and to serve you in every aspect of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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CONNECT CARD - to complete a connect card use your phone to access the link on the QR code to the left



ELVANTO is the online system we use to manage our church rosters and member directory. Access via stmarksdp.org/members. Contact the church office to request access.



IN CASE WE NEED TO EVACUATE As you take your place in the pew, please take note of the route to the nearest door: Remember that there is a small step from the pew to the floor. The Emergency Assembly Area is the Memorial Garden.



BABY FACILITIES are in the Parenting Room at the rear of the church and in the accessible toilet beside the Howard Lea Hall. The service is broadcast to the Parenting Room.



ELECTRONIC GIVING is an unbeatable way to ensure you actually give what you decide to give.

Bank details : Westpac Bank BSB : 032 054 Account number : 250036
Name of account : St Marks Church Darling Point

Contact the Office Tue, Wed, Fri 8am - 2pm, Mon & Thu 8am - 4pm
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