

Glen Park Gospel Church

Sunday, April 5th, 2020

(These written prayers and other exercises are offered before the Lord, by we the people of the Church, just as we would do if we were gathered together. Under the current regulations we can do nothing else.

If you do not want to use what we have presented, please feel free to substitute extemporaneous words of your own. You are entirely free, under these circumstances to do as you wish. No one will be offended. May the Lord lead and bless you as we come before Him.

The same is true of the selected Bible readings, although they are selected by the Service 'leader;' and/or to fit with the message presented. Should you have a problem with the message theme or presenter, please feel free to substitute one of your own. No one will be offended.)

Introit.

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory, glory and honour, glory and honour and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created. Thou hast created all things
And for Thy pleasure they are created, for Thou art worthy O Lord.

Eternal God, and our heavenly Father, we a small band of your people are joined together this day with the common purpose to bring you our praise and worship. And we join with our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus Your Son in this common and united of praise. We confess our sinfulness and wrong motives and actions but also your goodness and worthiness. All that we receive is due to Him and we acknowledge our eternal indebtedness. We thank you, our Father, for the dearly won redemption that we freely enjoy.

If you can, sing or else read aloud, or else hum and savour the words of these hymns as you work through it: (All today's hymns are found in our Red Book.)

The Hymn 28.

1. **This is my Father's world.** And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round me rings The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, His hand the wonders wrought.
2. This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass. He speaks to me everywhere.
3. This is my Father's world. Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let Heaven ring! God reigns, Let earth be glad.

Malthie Babcock 1858 - 1901. In the Public Domain.

A Bible Reading. In your own Bible read, Psalm 24.

The Hymn 168, in the Red Book. **Constantly Abiding.**

1. There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave.
A peace it can not take away:
Though trials of life may surround like a cloud,
I've a peace that has come there to stay.

Chorus: Constantly Abiding. Jesus is mine;
 Constantly Abiding. Rapture divine
 He never leaves me lonely, whispers oh, so kind.
 "I will never leave thee." Jesus is mine.

2. All the world seemed to sing of a Saviour and King.
When peace sweetly came to my heart:
Troubles all fled away and my night turned to day
Blessed Jesus how glorious Thou art.
3. This treasure I have in a temple of clay,
While here on His footstool I roam.
But He's coming to take me some glorious day,
Over there to my heavenly home.

Anne Murphy d. 1942. In the Public Domain.

Please turn to Hebrews 13 in your own Bible and read verses 1 to 21.

Here are a few announcements:

This order of service was compiled with Easter in mind by Doreen and last week's came from Joan. We are asking others to provide a service order each week just as we do at the Church. Of course there, they would actually lead it. We are asking our men to provide the read sermon each week. It would be good to have our younger men share in this ministry also. It is an easy way to start into preaching.

Tuesday is the time Church and Missionary prayer. When gathering we begin at eight with Church items and then move on Home and Overseas missions. It does not demand an evening time slot. You can pray during the day, or next day. Joan usually writes to those included to tell them that their needs are being presented before the Lord. This encourages many. She also gives a Green Leaf to many.

Arthur and Jeanette have been able to replace their caravan. The previous one was stolen. I have seen pictures of the replacement unit, and a wheel clamp for security. May the Lord go with you Arthur and Jeanette. Jeanette how is your wrist?

At the time of writing Darrell's surgery had been delayed. Wendy is still in need of our sympathetic prayers.

Let us bring our problems, hopes, joys and fears to the Lord in Prayer:

And as stated before you are at liberty to add to or supplement this prayer to suit your personal wishes or circumstances.

Our Heavenly Father we come to you in Jesu's name and bring to you our points for prayer, and it is our desire that this time will not be a shopping list, but a time of

bonding between a loving and wise God and a family of trusting children.

Accordingly we take the opportunity to bring you our praise for all of your loving kindness. And we bring to you our people, our Church and natural families.

We pray for our leaders, those in the church that they may be filled with your Spirit to lead the work you have called us to do. That they may watch over us in love and wisdom and not in self interest. We pray for our National, State and Local leaders that they may be given the gift Spirit guided leadership, even those that do not have their trust firmly in you. We thank you for the PM and some of his cabinet who are not ashamed to seek you publicly and we Amen their prayers.

We pray for our own people. There are those who have real needs. Darrell and Wendy both need your healing touch, also Joan and Eirene, and others of us to a greater or lesser degree. We pray for Helen, Mary; Arthur and Jeanette, Laurie, Valmai and David, for Ann and her growing family, for Chris, Doreen and Philip and then there are our folk in care; Georgina, June, Muriel Smith and Betty Eaton and caring daughter Sue with Doug Heckathorn and family.

We remember the missionaries who have left home and family to serve your family abroad. Under the current conditions at home we ask that their income will not diminish, the evangelistic opportunities will not fail, that their ability to communicate upwards and outwards will be rewarded. That their numbers will grow, that able bodied people will use this downturn period to explore Christian mission.

We pray for our outreach responsibilities, for the hopes we have to help provide facility for young mums and their bubs to give us a new avenue for ministry to young families, for the ministry in the schools, especially Eltham North which we see as a place of responsibility for us; also we ask for an outreach that will replace 'Good Friday in the Park' for this year.

Dear Lord, when we look at this list it is too much for us to do. We are not getting any younger or stronger and we need your undertaking, undergirding strength. Dear Lord abide with, look upon us in grace. May you Holy Spirit empower and enable all that we put our hand to do. Give us wisdom. Give us grace and strength. Give us the determination to trust you to guide and bless the intent of our heart and the enabling of our hands, we pray,

in Jesus name, Amen.

The hymn: **Lead Me to Calvary.** No. 81.

1. King of my life I crown Thee now, Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn crowned brow, Lead me to Calvary.

Refrain

Lest I forget Gethsemane; Lest I forget Thine agony.
Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.

2. Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid; Tenderly mourned and wept;
Angels in robes of light arrayed Guarded Thee as Thou slept.
3. May I be willing Lord to bear Daily my cross for Thee;
Even Thy cup of grief to share. Thou hast borne all for me.

Address

The Crimson Worm

by Chris Trinham

(Next week to be by Laurie Maskell)

Look at the 22nd Psalm. This is the great Psalm of the crucifixion of Christ written 1,000 years before it was fulfilled. The title tells us that it was a psalm of David. It is an amazing prophecy. It describes in great detail the sufferings of Christ on the cross. We cannot imagine how David could have had any idea of the things of which he was prophesying.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" he cries out. There are events in the life of David when he was a fugitive from Saul, perhaps marching in a desert ravine or hiding overnight in a cave, with Saul's men on his heels, when he had called to his God to come to his rescue. But no relief came in the way David imagined. It was not in the plan of God at that time. It would seem as though God had heard his cry, but shut the door and left David alone to be a fugitive. What did his anointing mean if all came to this? There are times in the life of every servant of God when he can identify with David the fugitive or the Christ of the cross in this way.

David compared himself with the hero forefathers of Israel. "In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them." 'Trusted' is repeated just here. It is emphatic. He compared the faith of his forefathers with his own in those times of stress. They were rescued. But, but what about me? Psalm 22:5 To you they cried and (*they*) were rescued; "In you they trusted and were not put to shame." With the taunts of the priests and soldiers, Jesus heard them trying to increase his discomfort and agony, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." . . . "let Him come down now from the Cross, and we will believe in him¹". "Save yourself! And come down from the cross!" Mark 15:30. Is this not Him being put to shame?

Then down at verse 6, in a cry that is most revealing, he says, "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people." What did he mean by saying "I am a worm"? To us a worm is the lowest of the fleshed creatures. It has no cry, it has no defence - it cannot hit back. It lives in our gardens on rotting vegetable matter, aerates the soil and the plants, the soil and does us a lot of good. It simply is. We tread on it, cut it in pieces, feed it to the fish and birds all without complaint. Do you see a picture of the meekness of mistreated Jesus, Yes? Well, this is not what the Bible has in mind.

This particular worm here referred to is the worm of the Middle East, and mostly in the Old Testament, is different to other kinds of worms. There are different kinds of worms, different varieties, but this is a particular variety of worm. By His cry He was saying that He was not a man, but that He was lower than a man.

In Philippians, the second chapter Paul, speaking of the humiliation of Jesus, says that Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be retained, but He emptied Himself of His Divine rights. By His nativity, he assumed servanthood. In being born similar to mankind with whom He was to dwell and serve, He humbled Himself still further; even to the form of His death, to a criminal's execution, which in that day meant the cross.

"I am a grub, a worm, much less than a man!" As He hung there upon the cross, He was less than a man in that He no longer had any power, any authority, even over His own body. He could not move about. He could not defend Himself, every breath was racking pain. Every word caused Him stress. His very breath was a painful gasp. There was so little that He could do. He was fixed, immovable by the cross by which He hung to the stump of a tree, naked, thirsting, bleeding. Yet it was that cross, stained red by His own blood, by which His offspring were to be born, and set free. Remember this description. It is the fulfilment of a living, but we might say, dying parable, a prophecy of the principal act of atonement, the price of your and my redemption. Paul tells us that, "in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven, thereby making peace with God by the blood of His cross." We can pursue this impeccable image of the scarlet worm a little further, again through Paul, and with some local knowledge.

Isaiah tells us in chapter 52:14 As many were astonished at you— His appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and His form beyond that of the children of mankind—. As He hung there, the crowd looking on the spectacle may not recognise Him. Women mostly but also many men did not identify Him. They turned their faces away from Him and when He turned His head in their direction they just had to avert their gaze. He became "corruption personified;" He didn't even look like a man there on the cross; but it all goes deeper than that here when He says "I am a worm and no man."

This worm is a scarlet worm the reason it was called that was because it had the ability to secrete a scarlet fluid which people used to make the scarlet dye they had in those ancient days. As a matter of fact, when you find the English word for 'scarlet' in the Bible, it's the same Hebrew word. "Though your sins be as scarlet," it's the same word exactly. It is Hebrew word number H8411. If you have a Bible concordance coded with the Strong's numbers, out of your own interest look it up. It will possibly be a simple but informative entry, such as, "This is the insect 'Coccus Ilicis.' The body of the female when dried yields a colouring dye which is collected and used to turn fabrics to a crimson colour."

You then will need to look in another comprehensive insect reference manual covering the Middle East, for the more critical information that teaches the lesson. Do you have a library near you containing them? If you are fortunate enough to access that resource, you may find a statement like this. "When the female is due to give birth, she finds the trunk of a tree, or a post, or a dead stump, or similar timber into which she embeds her body so firmly that she is unable extricate herself from it. The birth of the young occur inside that tree. There she dies and her body provides protection and provision for the young until they emerge ready to care for themselves. During this process a scarlet fluid from her stains her body, the bodies of the young and also the tree.

You can now see the last teaching parable of the Lord Jesus, It was not spoken by Him, but by David in Psalm 22:6. You can already see the parallels. They have been flooding your mind as you read this message this morning. But let me summarise them:

The Lord Jesus was nailed to the cross, His hands to the cross bar, His feet to the stump of a tree that once grew upon that hill, The cross is sometimes, in the Bible, called a tree. There was no escape. He would die there. His seeping blood stained His body, the tree, and all of those that have been born into His kingdom through their faith in Him. Prayerfully read or recall as a prayer of thankful commitment Isaac Watts Hymn:

1. When I survey the wond'rous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest Gain I count but Loss,
And pour Contempt on all my Pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the Death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

3. See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet,
Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!
Did ever such Love and Sorrow meet?
Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?

4. His dying Crimson, like a Robe,
Spreads o'er his Body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the Globe,
And all the Globe is dead to me.

5. Were the whole Realm of Nature mine,
That were a offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my Soul, my Life, my All.

Isaac Watts. In the Public Domain.

The Hymn : **At the Cross**

1. Alas and did my Saviour bleed? And did my sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?

Refrain

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light.
And the burden of my heart rolled away.
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.

2. Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity grace unknown! And love beyond degree!

3. But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself to Thee. 'Tis all that I can do.

Isaac Watts. In the Public Domain.

Benediction

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour
and glory for ever and ever, Amen.