

Glen Park Gospel Church

At Home Communion Service for November 8, 2020

As this is a communion service, before we commence, please prepare enough wine and bread or their substitutes to accommodate all who will participate with you this morning. Scheduled commencement 10.30 am.

Call to Worship:

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, Psalm 95:6-8

You might like to offer the following prayer, or substitute a petition of your own.

A Prayer in Commencement:

Almighty God, and our Heavenly Father, You who have redeemed us to yourself by your Son, to whom the hearts of all people are open, to whom all thoughts, reactions and desires are known, we come before you confessing our unworthiness. Take from our hearts we pray all that would stand between ourselves and yourself, all that would harm and hinder our standing with yourself and one another, and renew a right spirit within us, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Worship: We praise Thee O God. In our Blue Book No.12

1 We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,
We bless Thy holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship Thee, God of our fathers, we bless Thee,
Thru life's storm and tempest our Guide hast Thou been;
When perils o'ertake us, escape Thou wilt make us,
And with Thy help, O Lord, our battles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
To Thee, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise;
Thy strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,
To Thee, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Julia Cory 1882 - 1963

Scripture Reading, A selections from Hebrews 13: 1 - 18.

Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The

Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

We have an altar from which those who serve the altar in the tent have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

Prayers of the Church:

In this section we have provided a list of the people and items that need to be surrounded in prayer. There is always the risk that a prayer leader will overlook some one or some thing that another will deem important. It is almost always incidental and accidental. If we do please forgive, understand and cover the omission. Following is a memory list. Will you please pray as you feel led. We bring one another to the Lord:

People present and past. Joan Smith. Helen Waterworth and her sister Mary. Coralie Grant, her Wycliffe involvement, her parents, sisters and Tristan her son. Laurie and Valmai Maskel, David and his fiancée Erin, the wider Maskell family. Darrell and Wendy Reeve, the three sons and their families. Pray especially for Wendy and her cancer and the treatment which is so hard to endure. Chris and Doreen Trinham, Doreen going through a shingles episode just at the moment and has a way to go as yet, for Philip and Eirene. Arthur & Jeanette. There are our ladies in care homes, Georgina, Rae, June and Muriel. Also Betty now cared for by Sue and Doug.

Our Scriptures require us to pray for our governments, for Scott Morrison and the Federal government, Daniel Andrews and the Victorian government and also our various local governments.

Remember too our local community Our individual neighbours and the neighbours of the Church in Lower Road. To fulfil the injunctions of Scripture to express our faith in deeds of kindness and compassion. We need to see these spiritual, social and practical needs around us. Often it is not that we are unwilling, but we are blind to our obligations.

Pray for those serving in mission, especially overseas or in special locations away from home and the usual support network. Ask the Lord to please send more labourers into the vineyard. The task of world wide witness remains unfinished. We must pray for renewal in this land, for a spirit of revival and a desire for the things and ways of God to our people.

The Communion Service:

Events in the life of Jesus found in the New Testament are foretold in some gleam of prophecy in the Old Testament. Prophetic reference climaxes in the death and suffering of Jesus in and around the Cross. All prophetic scripture needs study to be understood, and it is more than likely that we shall never fully encompass it all. But the more we read, the more it impresses itself upon us. Therefore this morning we carefully and thoughtfully read selections from Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12, one of the major, best known and loved prophetic passages the Old Testament.

Together with this reading we have integrated our communion service and the singing of Isaac Watts famous, evergreen hymn, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. - Number 154 in our blue hymnbook. Author Isaac Watts - public domain.

We begin by singing verse 1 of our Communion Hymn.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

In your own Bible read Isaiah 52:13 - 53:5.

Luke 22:14-19ESV And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Take the bread you have provided, give thanks for the broken body of Jesus
Eat a small portion each, and then sing this second verse

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.

Luke 22:20-23ESV And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Take a cup of the juice that you have provided, give thanks for the blood that Jesus shed on your behalf

In your own Bible read Isaiah 53:6-12
And now we will sing the final two verses of our communion hymn

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer:

Our heavenly Father we in this precious moment cannot but be touched in our hearts and minds as we consider the deep, deep need of our hearts and also of all mankind around us. We also are amazed at the fact that this was all known and prepared beforehand. Before our lives, our sinfulness, our birth, the event of history, all history of mankind. How deep our sinful need runs, but how deep, how extensive, how costly was the provision in the death of your Son. All that is left for us to do is to take what grace has provided and with a heart of genuine gratitude offer you our thanks. We bow before you and say, "Thank you, Lord. Amen"

Include Darrell's message at this point

Concluding Hymn: 401 or 402 in the blue book. This is an old well used hymn. It is very familiar to us all. Do not let its familiarity rob you of its meaning. I include it for the truth and simplicity of its message. If however Darrell has an hymn or other exercise that better suits his message, use that.

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Author: Augustus Toplady 1776.

Benediction:

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. Jude 1:24&25.

All scripture in this order is taken from the English Standard Version of the Bible