

Glen Park Gospel Church

Sunday 22nd. August 2021.

Before you begin, remember that at our Church the Communion commemoration is observed on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. This Sunday being a fourth Sunday, please ensure that you have a portion of the bread and wine at hand. If you need, you may improvise and simply use that which is available. It is the obedience to the Lord's word that is important here. "Do this to remember me." Come join with us.

Invocation:

As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Psalm 42:1&2a.

Introit: Let the Beauty of Jesus Been Seen in Me. R606

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity;
O Thou Spirit divine, All my nature refine
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.

Albert Osborn 20C

Welcome:

Good morning everyone, welcome to our Sunday Service. With the Government further tightening our lockdown restrictions we see not much of immediate hope that we will soon be able to return to the little Church on the hill. We can worship the Lord anywhere and at any time, and He is ever ready to hear and answer our prayers. What we seem to miss most is the time that we are able to spend in one-another's presence. But today we are to enjoy meeting the Lord at the Communion table, we will consider the comfort and consideration of His sacrificial love, and we look to words of encouragement and instruction from God's Holy word. Thank you for stopping to join with us. Let us enjoy our companionship at a distance. We may still have a way to go yet.

The music was selected by Doreen. I am only sorry that you cannot hear her sing them just now. Music has been her ministry all the years I have known her.

Hymn No B33. For the Beauty of the Earth.

For the beauty of the earth
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
Pleasures pure and undefiled,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

For thy Church which evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Off'ring up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our grateful hymn of praise.

Folliott S. Pierpont. 1835-1917

Bible Reading: In your Bible Read Luke 22: 14 - 20.

Hymn: Here O my Lord B315

Here O my Lord, I see Thee face to face:
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand th' eternal grace
And all my helplessness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God.
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear
The feast though not the love is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove but Thou are here
Nearer than ever still my Shield and Sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet passing, points to the glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy.
The Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Horatius Bonar 1818-1889.

The Communion Service and our Recognition.

The Jewish Passover linked Calvary to the dread hour of the Exodus; the Supper links Calvary with the Second Advent. In partaking of it we should not confine ourselves to either retrospect or anticipation, but we should endeavor to feed our souls with the very spirit and heart of our dear Lord, so as to absorb His divine strength, sweetness and love. We need to feed on His flesh and drink of His blood after a mystical fashion, so that He may become the Life of our life. The word new contrasts the new with the present order of things, something entirely different. The former things will have passed away. Such was our Lord's anticipation!

The new covenant is further explained in Hebrews 8:1-13. It is good to recite its provisions when we sit at the Table. It is as though God and the believer drink of the cup in pledge of that blessed understanding between them. See how our Shepherd eagerly warns one of the sheep who was dear to Him and for whom He had pleaded often, Luke 22:31.

Read Luke 22:9. 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." Eat the bread at this point.

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

This bread reminds us of His broken body. This cup reminds us of His shed blood. These emblems are also the symbols of our service to Him as we serve others.

The prayers of the Church - the List:

Our Heavenly Father we come to you in Jesus name, with the praise and joys of our hearts in this moment of prayer; and we bring the needs of one another, and the wider world around us. Lord we bring to you our people this day despite the limitations a written service may have. Dear Lord be pleased to use it and us to your glory we pray. Please keep us united and wholly committed over this down time to one another and your work here and in many places in encouragement, commitment, and financially buoyant; for the needs continue and increase.

We pray for our leaders, those in the church that they may be filled with your Spirit to lead the work you have called them to do. That they may watch over us in love and wisdom. We pray for our National, State and Local leaders that they may be give selfless leadership, some do not have their trust firmly in you. We pray for such today that the Spirit of God will touch hearts and reset their minds to bring them into keeping with your purposes. We thank you for a Scott Morrison who openly trusts and serves you, and also some members of his cabinet who are likeminded. Keep them humble and alert to the people's needs. Fend off their opposition who are not genuinely interested in the people they are called to serve.

We pray for our own people. Those in need. Can we mention them by name Darrell, for Joan, Coralie and Eirene. We pray for Helen, Mary and the for Arthur and Jeanette, for Laurie, Valmai and David, for Ann and her family, for Chris, Doreen, and Philip. Then there are our folk in care; June, Muriel Smith and Rae. We also pray for those who receive and share this service as our guests and fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

We remember the missionaries on our lists who have left home and family to serve your interests in Australia and overseas. May their income be sure, and that ministry opportunities will not fail, Help them to be resourceful, and your people be aware of the opportunities, as Paul used to pray, that a door of opportunity be opened to them, that their strength and ability be renewed. We pray for our outreach responsibilities. Help us find a new niche for ministry to our area. May our eyes be opened to opportunities. Give us the nerve to take them we ask.

We pray too for those who are shut in by the current medical scare. We pray that people will indeed become aware of their mortality, and not be lulled into complacency. We pray for those hospitalised and those bereaved by the virus that they will be comforted and their families drawn to you. We pray for the people who are trapped by the suddenness of events in Afghanistan, for those imprisoned and abused by the invaders, to those who are fearful and trapped by events. We pray for those who name the

name of Jesus Christ that they will be brave and be true to your calling. Deliver your people in this their hour of need we pray .

Dear Lord, we bring to you the desires of our hearts and the work of our hands. In the final count this work is your work and we are your ultimate responsibility for we trust you to lead and empower as the opportunities arise. We trust in you.

in Jesus name, Amen.

Bible Reading

In your own Bible please read Hebrews 9:24-28

Children of the Living God

Key Verse: They shall be called children of the living God. Romans 9.26.

Rom 9:25&26 As indeed He says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.'"

This verse is a quotation from Hosea 2.23. Reading all of Hosea chapter one puts it in context. Take the time to read it now. It is set in a dramatic prophetic demonstration of the faithlessness of Israel and the loving mercy of God. Note in particular the statements in 1:6, 'I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel'

(Hosea's people) and 1:9 'You are not my people and I will not be your God' compared with 1:7 'But I will have mercy on the house of Judah' their southern cousins. Looking still further on to when Israel and Judah will be reunited under one head and when it shall be declared, 'ye are the sons of the Living God' v10.

Paul in Romans 9 clearly says that this momentous shift in attitude is due to a shift in the faith base of Israel, a remnant of 'whom He called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles', those who by faith have been ransomed by the blood of Jesus and become His people, people from every tribe, tongue, people and nation. These are the Children of the Living God.

Consider First, the Word Paul Used.

'Children' is from the Greek word *huios*, which indicates 'the relation of offspring to parent' (Vine). John chose to limit the word in his writing to describe the relationship of Jesus to God. John uses another word *teknon* meaning child in other relationships such as John 1.12. Other New Testament writers use it to describe our relationship with God. Emphatically, the word denotes relationship rather than a condition such as young, male or female, or the like. There are seven such Greek words giving various shades of meaning. It is these finer points we miss by using our English translation.

Writers other than John use *huios* or son - child in other ways, for example: 'children of Israel,' Luke 1.16, 'Son of David' Matthew 21.9, 'children of this world' Luke 20.34, 'your children' Matthew 12.27, etc. Each of these express relationship, a relationship which is like that of a parent and child.

Consider Second, our Relationship as God's Children.

This relationship is unique. To belong to a family is a part of kinship. The children of this world can only look on with envy. We may eat at our Father's table and enjoy His provision, live in His home and enjoy His protection, sit by His fireside and enjoy His company. As we are His children, we can do these things because we have the right to be there.

I remember being a long way from my home and in the town where my parents lived. I walked in on them one morning and they were sitting at their table eating breakfast. Surprised as they were to unexpectedly see me at that hour, the greeting I received was "Hello Chris, I didn't know you were in town. Come and put your legs under the table." I was family. I had a right to be there.

We enjoy all the blessings of our Heavenly Father's love because we are family. We are His children, and we have a right to be there.

Consider Next, our Status as God's Children.

Read Romans 9.24-27 in your Bible. It is God who has called us His children. Not only are we called by the Gospel to be His children but He has chosen us to be called His children. It is God who has called us His own. It is His choice. He wants us because He loves us. Imagine that! Even when we were guilty, rebellious sinners God loved us and sent His Son to die for us. And, now He calls us - 'His'. Compare the thoughts in verse 5 with those in verse 8 of Ephesians chapter 2.

Consider Then, God's Objective for His Children.

God has a purpose for you in calling you to Himself, and you are very precious in His sight. You are important to Him. There is first a general purpose which God has for all His redeemed people. This is wonderful to consider. Meditate on it long until it thrills your heart through and through. It is revealed to us in Ephesians 2.6&7. God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2.6&7 (NIV).

His eternal purpose is to show (to 'display or demonstrate') His grace, His sheer goodness, all its surpassing richness (For 'Incomparable' also means 'going beyond'). This is not God showing off, showing how good He is. It is God lavishing His love on His children eternally.

God also has a purpose for us in time. That purpose is to give us a foretaste of what awaits us in glory. To do that He has raised us up in Christ and seated us in our place with His Son in heaven. While we are here physically, spiritually we are already enjoying the inheritance He has for us in heaven in Christ.

But more than that: Consider Last, our Function as God's Children.

Part of God's purpose for us here in time is that He also has a particular purpose for each individual which unfolds as we walk day by day with Him seeking His will for our lives. This is told to us in:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2.10

We read about God's purpose for Paul as a leader in Acts 9.15. He may call you to be another Paul, or His purpose for you may not be as dramatic as that, but it will be just as important. God's purpose is not just for time, it is brought to fulness with Him in eternity.

God's purpose for you as an individual will use the gifts and abilities He has already given you, will express your personality, be satisfying, challenging, humbling, demanding and will be a blessing to other members of His family and at all times honour the holiness and purity of God's name.

2 Timothy 1:9-14 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

Our Closing Hymn. The Lily of the Valley B648

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me,
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
The Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see
All I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow He's my comfort, In trouble He's my stay;
He tells me every care on Him to roll;
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He all my griefs has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
In temptation He's my strong and mighty tower;
I have all for Him forsaken and all my idols torn
From my heart, and now He keeps me by His power,
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempt me sore
Through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal:
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.

He will never, never leave me nor yet forsake me here,
While I live by faith and do His blessed will;
A wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
With His manna He my hungry soul shall fill,
Then sweeping up to glory to see His blessed face,
Where rivers of delight shall ever roll:
He's the Lily of the Valley the Bright and Morning star
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul. Charles W. Fry 1837 - 1882.

Bible selections are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise acknowledged.

Good Bye, and may the Lord be with you till we meet again.