



Welcome to our Sunday Service

10th January 2021

Why bother with church?

Welcome: David Horrocks

Song:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul ...

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul ...

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years, and then forever more!

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.
I'll worship Your holy name,
Yes I'll worship Your holy name.*

Confession:

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to change what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may act justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen**

Psalm 48

- ¹ Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
- ² Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.
- ³ God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.
- ⁴ When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,
- ⁵ they saw her and were astounded;
they fled in terror.
- ⁶ Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labour.
- ⁷ You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.
- ⁸ As we have heard,
so we have seen
in the city of the Lord Almighty,
in the city of our God:
God makes her secure for ever
- ⁹ Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.
- ¹⁰ Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.
- ¹¹ Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments.
- ¹² Walk about Zion, go round her,
count her towers,
- ¹³ consider well her ramparts,
view her citadels,
that you may tell of them
to the next generation.
- ¹⁴ For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.

Prayers

Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Reading: Romans 12:1-13

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.

Talk: 'Members of one body' - Julian Bidgood

Song:

Oh how good it is when the family of God
Dwell together in spirit, in faith and unity;
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
Are the fruits of his presence here among us.

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
And with one heart we'll live out his word
Til the whole world sees the Redeemer has come,
For he dwells in the presence of his people.*

Oh how good it is on this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,
When we offer the blessing of belonging.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord ...

Oh how good it is to embrace his command
To prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father and the Spirit.

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord ...

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Russ Holmes & Stuart Townend
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Final Prayer

Next Week

We will continue our short series on 'Why bother with church?'.
David Horrocks will be preaching on 'An unexpected meeting.'



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Email: office@abch.org.uk

Website: www.abch.org.uk