



Welcome to our Service

Sunday 26th July 2020

Acts – the Unstoppable word of God

Welcome: David Horrocks

Prayer:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You,
and worthily magnify Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Song:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee:
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

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 32

- ¹ Blessed is the one
whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.
- ² Blessed is the one
whose sin the LORD does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- ³ When I kept silent,
my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night
your hand was heavy on me;
my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you
and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave
the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you
while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters
will not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- ⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.
- ¹¹ Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
sing, all you who are upright in heart!

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: Acts 8:4-25

⁴Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

⁹Now for some time a man named Simon had practised sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, 'This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.' ¹¹They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. ¹²But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. ¹³Simon himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

¹⁴When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'

²⁰ Peter answered: 'May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.'

²⁴ Then Simon answered, 'Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.'

²⁵ After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

Sermon: Julian Bidgood

Song:

¹ From the breaking of the dawn
To the setting of the sun
I will stand on every promise of Your word
Words of power strong to save
That will never pass away
I will stand on every promise of Your word
For Your covenant is sure
And on this I am secure
I can stand on every promise of Your word

² When I stumble and I sin
Condemnation pressing in
I will stand on every promise of Your word
You are faithful to forgive
That in freedom I might live
So I stand on every promise of Your word
Guilt to innocence restored;
You remember sins no more
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word

³ When I'm faced with anguished choice
I will listen for Your voice
And I'll stand on every promise of Your word
Through this dark and troubled land
You will guide me with your hand
As I stand on every promise of Your word
And you've promised to complete
Every work begun in me
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word

⁴ Hope that lifts me from despair
Love that casts out every fear
As I stand on every promise of Your word
Not forsaken not alone
For the Comforter has come
And I stand on every promise of Your word
Grace sufficient grace for me
Grace for all who will believe
We will stand on every promise of Your word

Keith Getty / Stuart Townend
© 2005 Thankyou Music

Final Prayer

Next Week

Our series 'Acts – the Unstoppable word of God' continues
and Julian Bidgood will be speaking on Acts 8:26-40.



All copyright songs reproduced under CCL licences 1188 & 903210 and PRS for music

Email: office@abch.org.uk

Website: www.abch.org.uk

