

Morning Worship

23rd August 2020

The Preparation

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. *Is 2:3a*

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.**

Testimonies

- Guinny Sorensen
- Diane Carrs' Psalm

A Psalm of Redemption

Your unfathomable love flows over me.

In my early years you nurtured me and held me.
You led me to light and smothered the darkness.

In the days of my youth you held me up and comforted me. Lord, you were the rock I stood on.

Oh, your grace is amazing; your love complete.

I climbed to high places to be near you and you answered me with soft breezes and brilliant stars.
You wrapped me in your wings. I saw you in the heavens and knew you were God.

You saw my afflictions and abided with me. You held me in my despair and comforted me. Your peace washed over me.

In my rebellion you were patient and wise. You sent onlookers who knew you and walked with me revealing your name. You blessed me with your word and I found perfect peace in you.

As I battled the evil one in my past you guided me, healing me as you revealed more of yourself.

I treasure you and hold you, my Lord, in my heart.
You speak to me in wonderful ways and show me your loving face.

Your strength and your righteousness guide me. I bow down before you and worship. You fill me with joy.
By Diane Carrs

Song:

Waymaker

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
let us praise and worship God who has called us together.

Let us celebrate God's majesty,
and delight in the wonder of God's love.

We do this because we believe in the presence among us of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Confession

Together we shall confess our sins
and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

Hear these words of scripture.
As God who called you is holy,
be holy yourselves in all your conduct.
Spirit of God, search our hearts.

In silence, we remember our need for God's forgiveness.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to God.
**Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you,
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart.
We have not loved others
as our Saviour Christ loves us.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent,
forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;
and tell of your salvation from day to day.
We proclaim your glory to the nations,
your praise to the ends of the earth.

As the scriptures are read,
we can allow God's word to speak to us,
and ponder its meaning for our lives.

The Readings from the Epistles

Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 12:1-8 – Michelle Cosslett

Song:

This is our God.

The Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20 – Helen Hardcastle

The Sermon – Peter Lloyd

Prayers – Lorraine Lloyd

In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness,
we pray for others as well as for ourselves,
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

Make your ways known upon earth, O God,
your saving power among all peoples.
Renew your Church in holiness,
and help us to serve you with joy.
Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.
Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten,

**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Make us instruments of your peace,
and let your glory be over all the earth.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray
**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Unite714 Litany

Heavenly Father, today we humbly come before You, asking You to examine our hearts. Simply to humble ourselves and pray is not enough. In this critical hour of human history, please reveal and expose any sin in our lives that is grieving Your heart and hindering our ability to cooperate with You. Help us to rise with fresh consecration in this critical hour.

Lord, freshly cleanse Your church around the world so we, as Your people, can represent You to our nations and respond to You in prayer.

With repentant hearts, our trust is in the gift of righteousness we have received by faith in Your redemptive work. We have been justified by faith. Through Your work on the cross, we have access to Your presence. Therefore, we are crying out with confidence, knowing the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.

Heavenly Father, through the redemptive work of Your Son, we confidently approach Your throne with this prayer: Revive Your church and save millions of precious people through a fresh outpouring of Your Holy Spirit.

Even the great characters in Scripture—like the prophet Elijah—were simply human. They also struggled with unbelief, fear, discouragement, anger, and despair. Yet, in the midst of their own crises, they found supernatural strength in You. Today, we freshly choose the way of faith. We rise up in the strength of Your might, committed to praying until we have seen victory over COVID-19.

Heavenly Father, You promise to strengthen Your people. Therefore, we are crying out to You for supernatural strength, that through faith and patience, we might fully possess everything You have promised us.

Israel was stricken by a crippling drought, then delivered from the very same drought 3-1/2 years later through the prayers of Elijah. We know Your rule is not limited to the weather. You are sovereign over everything.

Therefore, we are asking You to heal our lands from COVID-19 and drive this disease from the nations of the earth.

We pray for those of our congregation who are unwell, suffering or facing challenging health or financial issues.

We remember Eleanor Battley and Danny Lissington. Lord, you know who else in this parish needs our prayers maybe for things unknown to anyone else. For all these we pray:

Lord you are a present help in trouble.
Come revive, redeem, restore.
In our darkness come as light.
In our sadness come as joy.
In our troubles come as peace.
In our weakness come as strength.
Come Lord to our aid:
Revive, redeem, restore us.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Praise and honour to you living God;

**your coming will be like a thief in the night,
like lightning flashing across the sky.
Grant that we may be ready,
and our hearts answer, Come Lord Jesus.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake.
Amen.**

Morning Collect

God the source of eternal light,
shed forth your unending day on us
who watch for you;
that our lips may praise you,
our hearts bless you and our lives glorify you;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Gifts of the People.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation;
through your goodness we have been able to offer
this money, the fruit of our labour and of the skills
you have given us.
Bless us and our offerings to do your work in the
world.

Amen. Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn:

I will tell the Wondrous Story

The Dismissal

Now the God of peace
give us peace at all times and in all ways,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, remain with you
always. **Amen.**

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Closing Song:

The Blessing – Aotearoa Video