

Morning Worship

13th September 2020

Prelude – “Sonatina” Chara

The Preparation

Our theme today, is “Forgiven and forgiving.”

If you, O Lord, should note what we do wrong, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130:34

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Ps 103:1

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are here to praise God, to confess our sins and receive forgiveness, to allow God’s word to speak to us and to pray. All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Ps 103 continues: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

So let us praise and worship God celebrating his majesty and delighting in the wonder of God’s love.

Song

Only by Grace

Confession

Hear these words from Ps 103

“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger for ever;

He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

Let us in silence remember our need for God’s forgiveness.

Silence

In the presence of our Saviour, who died for us, let us confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

**God of mercy,
we have sinned against you and against others.
We have sinned in what we have done,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for our sins,
forgive us all that is past
and raise us to newness of life. Amen.**

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God’s love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us, 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.

Now, as the scriptures are read, we can allow God’s word to speak to us, by the power of the Holy Spirit and ponder its meaning for our lives.

The Scripture Readings: Gen 50:15-21; Rom 14:1-21

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

The Sermon

Song

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Ps 103 continues, “As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” It is as we are secure in this knowledge that we can come boldly before the throne of grace, to find help in time of need. Roy will lead us in our prayers.

Prayers

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.

Unite714 Litany

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. James 5:17-18 (ESV)

Lord, Your Scriptures are filled with astonishing accounts of men and women who changed their world through prayer. Elijah is among those heroes and heroines of the faith. Your Scriptures record he was greatly overwhelmed with fear and anxiety at one point in his life.

Yet, even in the weakness of his humanity, You made him strong. Through Your power and his

prayers, the course of history changed. Today, knowing You are the God whose strength is made perfect in our weakness, we humbly come united before Your throne, crying out in prayer.

Lord, make us strong in our weakness today. Fill us with the faith we need to patiently persist in prayer until COVID-19 is eradicated and our world is flooded with a fresh outpouring of Your Spirit.

Heavenly Father, prayer is often hard work. Today, we rise out of the mire of discouragement and patiently climb the mountain of prayer. Like Elijah, who did not settle for rain clouds and winds, we too, will persevere, until the spiritual drought destroying our planet is broken by the fresh rains of heaven. Lord, we boldly come before Your throne from 179 nations around the world. You have transformed our desperation into the discipline we need to change the course of our world through united prayer. We now cry out, saying: **Heal our lands from the ravages of this pandemic, revive and unite Your church, and save millions through Your glorious Gospel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

We pray for others in the parish whose needs are known to them alone. Heavenly Father, we ask that you would be with all those in need of your healing power.

We pray for those of our Church family here at St Stephens's who are unwell or facing challenging health, financial issues and for those who are suffering pain, for the poor and the distressed, for the lonely and the unloved and for those who grieve. We pray for all who lives have been touched by tragedy whether by accident or a deliberate act.

Comfort and heal those of our church family mentioned in the Kitsheet: we pray for Danny Lissington, Shirley Davis and for those whose names we bring to you now.

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.
Amen.

The Collect of the Day
**God of infinite mercy,
grant that we who know your pity
may rejoice in your forgiveness
and gladly forgive others
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.**

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.**

Song
Who you say I am

The Gifts of the People are acknowledged.
Father, you are merciful and generous. All that we are and have comes from you. You call us to respond to your grace with generosity. Receive the gifts we have offered and grant that our whole life may give you glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you now and remain with you.
Amen.

Go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.