

Service at home for Sunday, 27th June 2021

Welcome to our time of worship together.

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad, and give him glory.” (Rev. ch 19 v 7)

Singing the Faith 335

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore;
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains
he took his seat above;

His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules both earth and heaven,
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given;

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
God's trumpet call shall sound, rejoice!*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

We Pray

Lord we rejoice in your creative wisdom and power, and celebrate the loving care of our Heavenly Father.

Jesus, we rejoice in your forgiving love and wise teaching.

Holy Spirit, you give us joy in our hearts in your presence; we praise you.

Lord, receive us again, as we come asking forgiveness where we have failed you or failed to love one another. We open our hearts to receive your grace.

Singing the Faith 431

O, the love of my Lord is the essence
of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see He has given to me,
and His giving is gentle as silence.

Every day, every hour, every moment
has been blessed by the strength of His love.
At the turn of each tide, he is there at my side,
and His touch is as gentle as silence.

There've been times when I've turned from his presence,
and I've walked other paths, other ways;
but I've called on His name in the dark of my shame,
and His mercy was gentle as silence.

Estelle White (b 1925)

The Word

Psalms 130: A song of ascents.

- ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;
² Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.
³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?
⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
⁶ I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
⁸ He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

Mark Chapter 5 v21-43: Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

²¹ When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹ “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

³⁶ Overhearing^[2] what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The Sermon

The appointed Psalm for today is Psalm 130. This Psalm was being sung in St. Paul’s Cathedral when John Wesley attended a service on the afternoon of May 24th - the day on which he was to be converted at Aldersgate Street. It is particularly appropriate that we listen to its message on this ‘Conference Sunday’ when the Methodist Conference is meeting in Birmingham.

The Cry

Verse 1 ‘Out of the depths I cry to you’. Wesley writes, “On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday I had continual sorrow and heaviness in my heart”. He was crying out for a living faith. In the Gospel reading Jairus’ daughter is dying. He cries out to Jesus. What a cry! The woman, after twelve years of incessant bleeding and having spent all her savings on doctors, cries out in action with a touch. When we are in the depths of any sort we too can cry to the Lord.

Forgiveness

Verse 4 ‘There is forgiveness with You’. Wesley writes, “An assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine”. In John’s Gospel chapter 9, Jesus warns us against assuming that all sickness is caused by sin, but the story of the healing of the paralysed man to whom Jesus says, “your sin is forgiven” affirms that forgiveness, wholeness, and healing go together. Jesus brings wholeness to the woman and new life to Jairus’ daughter. He brings the healing of forgiveness to us as we cry out to Him.

Hope

Verses 5 & 7 speak of Hope. ‘Put your hope in the Lord for with the Lord is unfailing love’. All forgiveness and healing given to us as we cry to the Lord looks to the future a life of hope grounded in the love of God. When the little girl is brought to life Jesus says in a simple word, “give her something to eat”. In other words, let her get on with life, she has a future in front of her. The woman, healed of bleeding, has a liberated future, set free from legalism and judgement by others. John Wesley has an amazing ministry to follow his conversion, set free by the Spirit from a narrow legalism to a ‘catholic spirit’ (expressed in his sermon on the catholic spirit). His future was well expressed by his brother, Charles: “Enlarge, inflame and fill my heart with boundless charity divine”. God has a future of liberated hope for us, fulfilling the prayer expressed by St Paul in Romans chapter 15 verse 13.

“May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Singing the Faith 443 verses 1-3

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true;
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus, the Saviour, this gospel to tell,
joyfully came;
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame;
seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderer, home!
Wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Robert Walmsley (1831-1905)

Prayers

Lord, from the depth of our hearts, we pray to you

For the world – for places of conflict, refugees, aid agencies and workers, those bringing healing and care.

For the Church – for the Methodist Conference – for Sonia Hicks (President), Barbara Easton (Vice-president), for a spirit of unity and love. For our Circuit, and specially your own church and minister. For the world church.

For personal needs – those you know and those who have asked for prayer. For yourself

Say the Lord's prayer (slowly)

Singing the Faith 676

Christ, from whom all blessings flow,
Perfecting the saints below,
Hear us, who Thy nature share,
Who Thy mystic body are.

Join us, in one spirit join,
let us still receive of Thine;
still for more on Thee we call,
Thou who fillest all in all.

Closer knit to thee, our Head,
nourished, Lord, by thee, and fed,
let us daily growth receive,
more in Jesus Christ believe,

Never from thy service move,
needful to each other prove,
use the grace on each bestowed,
tempered by the art of God.

Love, like death, hath all destroyed,
rendered all distinctions void;
names, and sects, and parties fall:
Thou, O Christ, art all in all.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The Blessing

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

God blesses you.

With love, Colin Lake

(Bible: New International Version)