



New Year Worship

3rd January 2021

What it means to follow Jesus

Preparing for Worship (stand if able)

May the righteous be glad
and rejoice before God;
may they be happy and joyful.

Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,
extol him who rides on the clouds;
rejoice before him – his name is the Lord.

A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling.

**God sets the lonely in families,
he leads out the prisoners with singing;
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

Confessing our Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaring God's Forgiveness

O people, put your hope in the LORD. **His love endures forever.**
He is called Jesus, **because he will save his people from their sins**
(from Psalm 130 and Luke 1)

Song: Joy to the World

Reading from the Bible (stand)

Mark 8:34-9:13

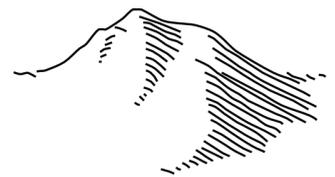


³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.'

And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

^{9:2} After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.



⁵ Peter said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: ‘This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!’

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. ¹⁰ They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what ‘rising from the dead’ meant.

¹¹ And they asked him, ‘Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?’

¹² Jesus replied, ‘To be sure, Elijah does come first, and restores all things. Why then is it written that the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected? ¹³ But I tell you, Elijah has come, and they have done to him everything they wished, just as it is written about him.’

Reflecting on God’s Word

What it means to follow Jesus

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Why follow Jesus?

Praying Together

The Collect for the circumcision of Christ

ALMIGHTY God, who made Your blessed Son to be circumcised,
and obedient to the law for man;
Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit;
that, our hearts, and all our members, being dead to all worldly lusts,
we may in all things obey Your blessed will;
through the same your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collects for ordering our hearts and minds

Gracious God, you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
that, loving you above all things,
we may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful Lord, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections.
Teach us to love what you command,
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the changes and chances of this world,
our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy.
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal
that we finally lose not the things eternal.
Grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given your only Son
to be for us both a sacrifice for sin
and also an example of godly life.

Give us grace that we may always thankfully receive
the benefits of his sacrifice, and also daily endeavour
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life,
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We praise you, Lord of all,
for the gifts of Christ our ascended King:
for apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
Hear our prayer for all who do not know your love
and have not heard the gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Send out your light and truth
through the messengers of your word.
Help us to support them by our prayers and offerings,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
look with compassion on the world you have redeemed
by the death of your Son Jesus Christ.
Move the hearts of many to offer themselves for gospel ministry.
Fill them with your truth and clothe them with holiness,
that by their lives and labours
your light might shine through them
and the coming of your kingdom be advanced,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the Kingdom,
the power
And the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.

Affirming Our Faith (stand)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

SONG: Facing a task unfinished

Notices

Pronouncing God's Blessing

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed, guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service and live this year in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices

After our service we can meet outside in pairs of two people only. Sadly, no mingling between more than two people.

Activities this week:

Zoom Small Group Bible Study and Fellowship. Groups will start during the week of 11th January. For more information, please ask Neil or Helen.

Keeping in contact and asking for help in times of need

We realise that we don't know from week to week why some people are not able to join our Sunday services. If you are ill, shielding or are unable to come to Sunday service for any other reason and would like Neil or Helen to know so that they can speak or pray with you, please call or text to tell them or ask someone else to let them know.