

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

Sunday 11th October 2020
Led by Natasha Brady



Welcome to this Family service

"Worship God with gladness. Come into his presence and sing his praises."

**** Please join in using the words in bold.**

Welcome & Notices



Opening Prayer

Lord God, faithful and loving, we do not always feel like rejoicing.
Even as we gather to worship you,
our minds are sometimes distracted and elsewhere,

weighed down by the burdens of our lives.
Help us, in this moment, to find it within our hearts
to REJOICE in your constancy and loving care for us.
People of God, let us rejoice.
Amen.

Songs

Tell out my soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of His word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His Name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

A modern version of the Magnificat written by the contemporary hymn-writer Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, first published in the Anglican Hymnal in 1965. Paired in 1969 with the tune "Woodlands" written in 1916 by Walter Greatorex (1877-1949).
Performed by the Arundel Cathedral Choir

Before the throne of God above

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea:
a great High Priest, whose name is Love,
whoever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,
my name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
no tongue can bid me thence depart
no tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,

upward I look, and see Him there
who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Saviour died,
my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the just, is satisfied
to look on Him and pardon me.
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! the risen Lamb!
My perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself, I cannot die;
my soul is purchased with His blood;
my life is hid with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.

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Written by Charitie Lees Bancroft, later Charitie Lees de Chenez (1841-1923)
Performed by Kingsway Music from the album Here I Am To Worship

Confession

After a period of reflection...

Eternal God, so often we give up if something goes wrong or doesn't go our way.
So often we are overwhelmed by our own problems that we forget to look out for others.
So often we are consumed with negatives and endings that we lose sight of the positives
and beginnings.

**Eternal God, forgive us for our self-centredness, our blindness and our deafness, and
reawaken your Spirit within us.**

Amen.

Reading Philippians 4. 1-9 read to us by Oliver McDowell

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Sermon Nigel Lowe is opening God's Word for us today

Song & Activity ... "Known & Named"

- Take a strip of paper (make sure it is long and narrow) and fold it into the shape of an accordion.
 - Draw a person on the top of your folded paper...
- here's the trick to make them stay connected... make the arms go off the edges of the paper, so when you open it up, they will be "holding hands"
- Carefully cut out your person shape, again leaving the edge of the arm intact where they will connect
 - Now open up your people! Aren't they sweet?



Keep hold of your paper people, colour them in, and don't forget to write their names on the back.

Each day pray and give thanks for each person named, rejoicing that God wants to know them too.

Words for the Song

The Lord's my Shepherd (I will trust in You alone)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

Chorus

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

Chorus

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Chorus x2

For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1996 Thankyou Music
Performed by Stoneleigh Worship Band

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.
**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Intercessions prepared and read to us by Pat Hegarty

Response: In you O Lord, **do we put our trust.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Song

In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Could ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Words and Music by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty. Vocal Arrangement by David Wesley
Performed by The David Wesley Virtual Choir (48 singers from 14 countries)

Final Prayer

We go our separate ways, Lord – perhaps with smiles or frowns; with our hopes and with our fears; with answers but also questions; maybe crying and with heavy hearts; or with anxieties, or relief. We go our separate ways, Lord, but we never go alone. With thankful hearts, we share the journey of life with each other and with you. Be with us as we go. **Amen.**

**Thank you for joining us today.
Keep safe and God Bless**

Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Going Deeper

This week's reading: Philippians 4.1-9

Bible Notes

There is a sense in this passage of this being a final communication from Paul to the Philippians, telling them to keep doing the things they have learnt from him and seen him doing. He encourages them to choose the true, honourable and just way, and to guard their hearts and minds against those things that could drag them down. His encouragement to them is that they are doing well, and to keep doing what they're doing. If they have worries and concerns, they should share them with God and with each other. And they do not need to worry about anything because the peace of God will be with them.

There will be times in our lives when we will step out into the unknown, whether that's through starting something new, moving to a new place, going through a bereavement. How can we build a supportive and affirming community that experiences life together, not only through good times but also in times of change and instability?

Questions for Reflection



When was the last time you wrote a letter to someone?

When have you said goodbye to someone, for a long time?

What kind of reassurance gives you peace of mind?

Live your faith

Each day this week, write a note of encouragement and place it where someone else will find it – at home, school, work, or somewhere else suitable.

Words of wisdom

Get a younger and older member of your family or household talking to each other. Ask each of them to think of a 'word of wisdom' they can give to the other. Encourage them to think especially of something that could help us not to worry, or help us to rejoice. Can they surprise each other?

A personal prayer

I do not always know who I am or what I want, Lord. I am sometimes happy in my skin and sometimes I just want to leave it all behind. Sometimes I want to be 'out there' and noticed and other times I want to be alone and obscure. Sometimes, Lord, my tears are of joy and sometimes of sorrow and anguish. But always, Lord, you know my innermost thoughts, even those I do not understand myself – help me to rest always in you.

Amen.

Name

Philippians 4.1-9

Paul ends his letter to the Philippians telling them to rejoice and not to worry but bring everything to God in prayer.



Family time

Talk What can you do if you are worried or anxious about something?

Do Read *The Huge Bag of Worries*, Virginia Ironside, and talk together about the book afterwards.

Pray What makes you want to rejoice? Share these things together and shout out 'Rejoice in the Lord!' after each one.

Activity time



Colour in and decorate the word 'Rejoice!' Draw things/people you want to bring to God in prayer.



Imagine you are a Philippian and write to Paul thanking him for the letter he has sent.



ROOTS children's sheet

11-17 October 2020



Unscramble the letters to see what the Philippians might have been feeling when they heard these words from Paul.


