



SERVICE FOR PERSONAL USE:

SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

**Call to worship:** ( words from the Psalm of the day, Psalm 91 v 2)

'You will say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust'.

**Hymn 'All for Jesus'** :251 Hymns and Psalms and 353 Singing the Faith

**Prayers:** Bounty anybody? Far better than choccie and coconut!  
....based on the Old Testament lesson for today (Deuteronomy 26 v 8-11)

Let us pray:

We celebrate 'all the bounty that the Lord our God had given to us'. As the ancient Israelites recognized God's presence and provision on their long journey through the wilderness; they brought the first fruits of the land (a land flowing with milk and honey) to their temple worship.

So we gather today, following this service at home yet united with others in our Circuit.

We bring our thanks and praise before the God who leads us and provides for our needs day by day.

We thank God for our homes, family, neighbours and friends.

We rejoice to be spending time in worship, to Give God honour, praise and his true position as 'first' in our lives.

But so often he is not first. Our selfish perspective robs him of his rightful position. We lay before God all, the times when the words 'me. My, mine and I' push our perspective to the fore in our daily life.

We ask, again, for forgiveness and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to filol our lives so we walk more closely with our savior.

Amen: We say the **Lord's Prayer**. A prayer for every aspect of our lives.

**Reading: Luke 4 v 1-13** The temptations of Jesus.

**Reflection:**

Imagine a men's singles tennis match. The two ends of the court are sponsored by "**IF**" and "**IT IS WRITTEN.**" Satan to serve; from the '**IF**' end.

**IF** you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread..you must be hungry

Jesus returns; a winning backhand with side- spin that easily takes the point;" **IT IS WRITTEN** man does not live by bread alone".. I have spiritual food that you cannot see. Love : 15 to Jesus.

Satan, from the '**IF**' end: "**IF** you worship me I will give you all the kingdoms of the world."

Jesus returns quickly, a forehand winner. : "**IT IS WRITTEN** worship the Lord your God and serve only him." Love: 30

\*A quick change of ends at this point (no Robinson's juice , chair or towel available).

Satan, serving from the **IT IS WRITTEN** end.

Throw yourself off the temple spire, Jesus, because **IT IS WRITTEN** "Your angels will guard you". \*Crafty move that, Satan had obviously read the Psalm for today (Psalm 91 v 11-13) and is trying to play Jesus at his own game!

Jesus returns ( as usual) with scripture. A thunderous passing shot, Satan never even moves his feet. "**IT IS WRITTEN** do not put the Lord your God to the test."

*"when the devil had finished every test he departed from him until an opportune time."*

*Satan leaves the court for now.... Love:40*

*Take time to think about the times you feel tempted to leave God's way; to walk off in your own direction; in your own, supposed, strength; following your way.*

*Note how Jesus used scripture to reply to every temptation: worldly food, worship and even wrong use of God's words by Satan.*

*Make a determined effort this week to look at scripture as your guide to every part of each day.*

*If you always serve from the "It is written" end you will find that you will always hear 'game, set and match' ( OK, how about "well done, good and faithful servant.")*

**Hymn Singing the Faith 447:** Jesus, be the centre. You may not know the tune but the words speak for themselves anyway. { I thought I would leave the typo in the hymnbook title and then thought , to continue the tennis analogy, Jesus can be the Centre Court?}

### **Reading: Romans 10 v 8b-13**

This passage continues the theme of the importance of God's word. It talks of the word being "on your lips and in your heart."

Read it through for yourself but note the themes of:

LIPS and MOUTH : confess that Jesus is Lord in order to be saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

HEART: believe with your heart so you are justified. You are saved if you know in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead.

**Reflect:** on this first week of Lent set out to examine how your words and heart will express your love of Jesus. What am I saved 'from' and what am I saved 'for'?????????

**Prayers:** Look through your Sunday paper, TV news bulletin or internet news feeds. For each story pray for leadership to be able to recognize the worth of every individual under their regime /country/ political party or business. Pray for clear, moral and transparent leadership. Where there

are autocratic leaders (in Russia and China) we uphold those who are campaigning for change; often at great risk to their personal freedom .

We uphold the people of Ukraine.

Let us not forget the following individuals: we especially remember Alexei Navalny in Russia ( facing a possible extra 10 year imprisonment), Suu Kyi imprisoned by the rogue army regime in Myanmar and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe in Iran (waiting for a debt to be paid?).

In all these world trouble spots we pray for the 'ordinary' citizens who do not want war and turmoil. May local Christians be strengthened to offer help in the name of Christ.

**Hymn: All for Jesus:** Singing the Faith 341..... Hymns and Psalms 251

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. AMEN.

May you keep your ball within God's tramlines this week!