



**Service for personal or private use 14th June 2020.
2nd after Pentecost.**

Hymn, “Let earth and heaven combine” 109 H&P.

Opening Prayer:

O God our loving Heavenly Father,
We say to You, bless be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ, in heavenly places. We want to thank You again for all your love to us, as we see this in Your marvelous creation and even though there are things we do not understand, we see the evidence and stamp of Your goodness. But most of all we thank you for our Lord Jesus Christ, who left heaven, came to earth, live our lives, died on the cross and rose again, that we might be forgiven and loved, not only in time, but in eternity.

So we come to You as Your children, asking if necessary for Your forgiveness and having the assurance that if we confess our sins, we will be forgiven and cleared of all unrighteousness. Please be with us in this time together and may we know Your presence as the Spirit of Christ fills our lives, in His name we pray. Amen.

Bible Readings.

Exodus 19 vs 1 -8. God explains the Covenant between Himself and the people of Israel.

Matthew 9 vs 35 – 10 vs 8. Jesus looks at the crowd with compassion, as sheep with no shepherd, so he chooses the twelve Apostles and sends them out to minister to the people.

Romans 5 vs 1 – 8.

Message : I would like to share with you Romans 5 vs 1,
“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus”

The first thing to ask is what does the word “therefore refer to ?
The answer to this is in the first four chapters of Romans.

So in chapter 1 we have the pagan world which has sinned, in chapter 2 we have the religious world which has sinned, in chapter 3 we have the argument put forward that all have sinned and missed the target of God's standards.

In chapter 4 we are encouraged to have faith in God, similar to that of Abraham and direct that faith towards Christ, who died for our sins and was raised for our justification – see vs 25.

Therefore we are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ the word justify means to be made right with God, this is the foundation of our salvation. This salvation has been achieved by Christ's death on the cross and the supreme love of God for every human being in every generation. This love is wonderfully illustrated vs 6 -8. Where the Apostle Paul describes on a rare occasion, a person might die on behalf of a righteous person, or on a very rare occasion a person might die on behalf of a good person, but wonder of wonders, Christ died for us while we were sinners, yes, in our weakness and at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Not that we are ungodly now, in fact in God's eyes we are totally righteous because of Christ, as it says in 2 Corinthians 5 vs 21, "Christ who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God"

This particular Bible Reading has had a great positive influence in Christian history. It was in the sixteenth century that an unknown monk called Martin Luther discovered the truth of this passage. He felt very bad about sin in his life and would spend six hours a day in confession. The Priest got fed up of this, so he sent Luther to do some studies on the Psalms and later on Romans. It was while he was climbing the steps in the Abbey doing his penance and readings Romans at the same time; he read "Therefore being justified by faith", he suddenly realized, he didn't need to do all these activities, he only needed to trust in Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross. The other example I share with you is that of our own John Wesley, who was not only an Anglican Vicar, but also been a missionary in the Americas, yet was dissatisfied with his personal spirituality. During this time he attended a mid week meeting where the speaker was sharing Martin Luther's commentary on Romans. As a result he writes these most famous words, "at a quarter to nine I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I

did trust in Christ alone for salvation and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins". As a result of this experience and the subsequence of his preaching, John Wesley brought revival to our country and changed the course of history positively. When I was a young Christian, I use to doubt if I was truly a genuine believer, until I read Paul's letter to the Romans, then I realized, it was not my grip on God that counted, but His grip on me. God bless you. Keith.

Prayers of Intercession.

O God our understanding Lord, we thank you for the times when everything is going right, when everything in the garden is lovely. But we realise there are times when we and others experience the thorn of the rose.

Where the thorn is a passing pain or sickness,
or loss due to the Coronavirus.

Christ bring your wholeness.

Where the thorn is a struggle with hard questions,
Where the thorn is a broken relationship, or physical deterioration,
or fear of it.

Christ bring your wholeness.

Where the thorn is rejection by others or rejection of oneself, or of
persistent self doubt.

Christ bring your wholeness. Amen.

Please observe a few moments of private prayer, when you can
bring the need of others and yourself before the Lord.

We bring all our prayers thoughts and feelings to You O God, in the
name of Christ. Amen.

We say the Lord's Prayer.

We say the Grace together. Amen.