



Service for personal or private use - 17th January

Hymn, “Let earth and heaven combine” 109 H&P, 208 StF.

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 Lord if necessary we confess our sins,
asking for your forgiveness and your restoration.

In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Bible readings

John 1 vs 43 – 51

1 Samuel 3 vs 1 – 10

Psalm 139 vs 1 – 18

1 Corinthians 6 vs 12 – 20.

Hymn “O Word of God incarnate” 478 H&P 527 MP.

Sermon

I share with you some thoughts from the readings above.

In Psalm 139 we have the idea of the all knowing God, this is referred to by theologians as God’s omniscience. So, God knows about everything, He knows about Covid 19, (however, it doesn’t mean that He sent it). On a personal level, it means God knows all about us, the good and the bad and the inbetween and when necessary forgives us and because of Christ, that forgiveness is sure.

This all knowing God sometimes calls people for special tasks to fulfill His divine sovereignty, for example He calls the boy Samuel, as soon as he realizes it is not Eli, but God, he says, “speak Lord for your servant hears”. Then God reveals to Samuel He has a special work for him to do, which was to bring in the idea of Monarchy. Isaiah was also called after he had the vision of the Lord in the temple, finally God says, “who shall we send and who will go for us”, Isaiah replies, “here am I send me”. These are two of many examples. For many of us, the call of God is to be a witness for Him in our own location and to keep the “home fires burning”. This was the case in the

ministry of Jesus when he heals a person who had been possessed by demons, afterwards the man wants to follow Jesus, but our Lord says no, but be a witness in your own home and locality.

The greatest call of all was the call of Jesus by God, this took place when he was baptized by John the Baptist in the river Jordon and he heard a voice from heaven saying, “you are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased”. Part of the call of Jesus was to become the mediator between God and mankind, this he achieved when he died on the cross. A picture of Christ being our mediator comes in our reading from John’s gospel, where Jesus says to Nathanael “Truly, truly, you will see the heavens opened and angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man”. Jesus is clearly thinking of the time in the Old Testament when Jacob ran away from Esau and fell asleep at Bethel, where he had a dream of a ladder reaching up into heaven and angels ascending and descending on it; Jesus is saying he is the ladder linking earth with heaven. Christ has become our mediator, because he died for our sin and wrong on the cross, this is fundamental to us as Christians and is called the “atonement”. We know that Christ not only died, but in the mystery of God’s love rose from the dead and he by the Holy Spirit can live in our lives, as it says in John 1 verse 12, when we receive Christ we become children of God, see 1 Corinthisian 6 verses 19 and 20.

God bless you all. Keith.

Hymn “Jesus calls us! O’er the tumult” 141 H&P,
250StF, 359 MP.

Prayers of intercession

O God our loving Heavenly Father,
you know us through and through and love us just the
same.

Please give us your awareness of others
and by your Holy Spirit make us sensitive to them.

When it is necessary, let us hurt where they hurt and
show compassion,

that they may know they are not alone.

May we share their joys and happiness realizing what
a positive effect this can have.

Lord we ask you to give us insight enabling us to offer
quiet needful help, encouragement – a word in

season. **Amen**

Friends, let us pray for those people who are on our
minds today, let us pray for them now, Short
period of silent prayer. Loving Lord we bring all our
prayers, our feelings to you this day, in Christ’s name.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer.

Hymn “One more step along the world I go” 746 H&P,
476 StF, 1346 MP.

We say the Grace together. **Amen.**