

Service for personal or private use 17th July 2022.



Hymn, “All praise to our redeeming Lord” 753 H&P, 608 StF, 19 MP.

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.

Luke 10 vs 38 – 42.

Here we read the well known incident of Jesus at the home of Mary and Martha. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus listening to his teachings, whereas Martha is busy working around the house. When Martha complains about her not helping, Jesus recognizes her deep spirituality.

Hymn “The church is one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord” 515 H&P, 690 StF, 640 MP.

Colossians 1 vs 15 – 28. The Message.

First of all we see in verses 15 – 17 the importance of Christ in eternity and creation, this is shown in the following phrases, “He is the image of the invisible God”, “for in him all things were created in heaven and on earth”, “he is before all things and in him all things hold together”. Here we have the transcendent Son of God, the one who was in the beginning with God and was God (John 1 vs 1). The one whom when he came to earth, he showed God’s glory full of grace and truth. It says in verse 19, “For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”. The word “fullness” is needed in order to complete the picture. Jesus is not simply a sketch of God; he is not a summary of God, he is more than a lifeless portrait of God. In Christ there is nothing left out, he is the full and final revelation of God and nothing more is needed.

The second thing we see in verse 18 is the position of Christ in the church, which is the body of Christ, as it says, “He is the head of the body the church, that in all things he might be pre-eminent”. So every word and action of the church must be

governed by him, it is at his bidding that the church must live and move. Without him the church cannot think the truth, without him the church cannot act correctly and without him it cannot decide its direction. The words of a well known hymn could be helpful, "The church is one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her, to be his holy bride, with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.". So Christ has reconciled us to himself by his death on the cross (vs 20).

The third thing I share with you is the idea of the mystery (vs 26 & 27). The Apostle Paul mentions this word frequently in his other New Testament letters. The definition of the word "mystery" in the 21st century is something which cannot be explained, however in Paul's use of the word, it has a slightly different meaning. It means something which could not be comprehended has now been revealed and explained. The mystery is the idea that a Gentile could have the Spirit of Christ living their being, as verse 27 says, "God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you the hope of glory". To previous generations of believers who firmly believed that Gentiles were the scum of the earth, are now persuaded that they also have been accepted by God and have become His children, must be seen as a transformation, a spiritual miracle. It shows that the Gospel came not in word only, but in power, in the Holy Spirit and with much assurance, (1 Thessalonians 1 vs 5).

God bless you all. Amen.

Hymn 256 "He is Lord, he is Lord" H&P, 348 StF, 220 MP.

Prayers of intercessions.

Lord Jesus, you are our way to the Father. We have no goodness of our own, to make us fit for God' presence,

However we come confident because of your all atoning death. So now we pray for other people and situations.

We pray for those whose bodies are in pain,

for those whose minds are in turmoil or perplexed,

for those who grieve

We pray for the churches which we represent,

We pray for our Circuit and the changes which will take place in September; for Mark as he leaves us and for Mo as she joins us and for Keith in his new role.

In our personal lives, may we continue to pursue spirituality and may that exercise enrich us and equip us to bring blessings to other people.

We bring all our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

We say the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn "In Christ alone my hope is found" 351 StF, 1072 MP.

We say the Grace together. Amen.