



Service for personal use – 23rd August 2020

Call to Worship

When Jesus asked, Simon Peter answered,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”.
Let us make the same bold answer and let us
Come together to worship God in Christ.

Hymn: Through all the changing scenes of life 73 H&P.

Opening Prayer

O God, our loving Heavenly Father, we want to acknowledge again that You are the great God of wonders, yet only a prayer away.

We want to thank You for the many presents of Your promises and the keys to open them.

Make us ready like Simon to become Peter, doing great things in Christ’s strength and for Your Kingdom.

We come to You realizing that there are sometimes things in our lives which are wrong, so if that is the case, please forgive and renew us.

We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 24 – 843 H&P.

Hymn: Powerful in making us wise to salvation 479 H&P.

Bible Readings

Romans 12 vs 1 – 8.

We are encouraged to offer our lives in sacrificial way, so that God’s Kingdom might grow, so the body of believers grows as we use our individual gifts in the service of others.

Matthew 16 vs 13 – 20

This passage of Scripture is one of the most well known in the New Testament. Jesus and the disciples are in Caesarea Philippi which is a long way from Jerusalem and the normal area of Our Lord’s ministry, therefore they were “taking time out”, annual holiday, if you like, so we also need to have some time when we relax, rest and recharge our batteries, ready to return and continue to work for God’s Kingdom.

As they were gathered together, Jesus asks a question, “who do people say the son of man is”, they replied,

“some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets”. He said to them, “but who do you say that I am” and Peter without hesitation said, “you are the Christ, the Son of the living God”. Peter was privileged because he had received a revelation – “no ordinary person says Jesus has revealed this to you but my Father in heaven”.

So we too need revelation in our lives and in our churches.

In my Christian life I have constantly asked God to reveal Himself to me, to communicate with me and to guide me and He has in a measure. Surely our great aim as Christians is to search for more truth about God in Christ, to know more and more the depth, breadth and length of His love.

As we know Jesus changes Peter's name as a result of his confession from Simon, which means "little stone" to Peter, which means "rock like". Then Jesus makes an amazing statement, "you are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church". For our Catholic friends, this is the foundation of the teaching that Peter was the first Pope, this is not our view, nevertheless we acknowledge that he was important in the early Church. It was Peter who addressed the crowd on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Later on, it is Peter and John who lead and sort out many problems amongst the growing throng of believers.

So, Peter was blessed indeed, but still had lessons to be learned and mistakes to overcome. Later on in Matthew 16 Jesus explains that he is going to suffer and die, but Peter says, "no Lord this can be never true about you", however, Jesus has to reprimand Peter and say, "you are not on the side of God". Of course, we all know about his infamous denial of Jesus. Even later on in Paul's letter to the Galatians he challenges Peter, because as he says, "you are in error" (see Galatians 2 vs 11 – 12.).

Therefore, we remind ourselves that we are always in need and occasionally we need to be corrected, forgiven and challenged. However far we proceed along the Christian way, there is always something to learn, relearn and discover. God bless you all. Amen.

Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God. 280 H&P.

Prayers of Intercession

Living God, we trust You to answer our prayers, according to Your will and the richness of Your love for in Christ.

We pray for those who struggle with their faith, through self-doubt, difficult circumstances and being led astray by others.

We pray for people who feel they are in the dark, locked into a situation, where they can find no answer. We ask that they might come to understand that You are the key to everything they need.

We pray for ourselves when we are in difficult situations, times when we try to unlock doors that are not ours to open, when we don't focus on Your Kingdom, when we don't share our story. Please give us a fresh vision of You wonder and Your will.

We pray these our prayers in Christ's most worthy name. Amen.

Hymn: May the mind of Christ my Saviour, live in me from day to day. 739 H&P.

We say the "Grace". Amen.