



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on October 2nd 2022 at 10:45, meeting at Bethesda Chapel.

Whilst some are able to meet in person, others we know are still at home. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Our service today is being led by Alec, and includes Communion. Trevor is playing the piano (or rather the Clavinova) for us.

The weekly notices are displayed on the screen prior to the service, which Alec begins as **he welcomes us, and leads in prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we have the freedom to come here today to this place, to meet together with one another and to meet together with you. You are the living God, the Almighty God, the good shepherd of the sheep. and we thank you for bringing us together. We pray that you will lead our gathering today from the beginning to the end. Help us to pray, to praise you, to learn from your word, and to fellowship together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Our opening hymn today is The Church's one foundation, which Trevor plays for us: Alec asks that we sing from our hearts but use our heads and eyes as we read and sing the words, to absorb the deep truths of the word of God.

The church's 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.

Called out from every nation, yet one through all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, and shares one holy food;
As to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

We see her long divided by heresy and sect,
Yet she by Good is guided one people to elect.
Her vigil she is keeping. Her cry goes up "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the dawn of song

In toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore:
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed;
At last the church victorious shall be the church at rest!

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three-in-One;
and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, grant to us your grace
With them, the meek and lowly, in heaven to see your face..

SJ Stone (1866), S Wesley CCLI Song 55377 Words and Music Public domain. CCL No 5664

Our prayers are led by Debbie:

Dear Lord,

As we think about you as the Builder today, thank you that you are seeking to build your church in this world – thank you that you can make us strong, can help us withstand any storm and have a master plan to make us the people you want us to be. May we listen to your voice and be guided by your will in all we do, knowing that your plans are perfect in every way.

Wider World:

We continue to bring before you the ongoing fighting in Ukraine – the ratcheting up of rhetoric and enmity, the moves made by Russia to annex territory, a move the rest of the world sees as unfair. We pray again, Lord, for You to change the hearts and minds of those who are seeking to wage war, that You would incline them to a backing down and a move towards peace. We pray for those, on both sides, who live in fear – fear of the fighting, fear of conscription, fear for loved ones. May they know Your peace at this difficult time and may they place their trust in You. We also pray for our fellow Christians in the Ukraine this morning – that their worship and the preaching of your Word will speak to them and strengthen them.

Thank you for the recent visit of Jim Barrie from Open Doors and his reminder of the courage and faith of the Persecuted Church – we pray for those who are suffering for their faith, may You grant them strength, courage and joy even in the face of threats and troubles. May they know the joy of Your presence, a joy that no-one can take away from them; may they know they are precious in Your sight. We thank you too for Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, who passed away this week – we thank you for his ministry to the Persecuted Church and pray that you will comfort his family at this time and continue to bless the work he began to the glory of Your name.

We remember Brian and Jackie, our link missionaries, in Chad. We pray you will guide the current political situation and important talks going on that may deeply affect the future of the country and its people; - that wise decisions will be made. We pray for Chadians who have lost homes and property in recent flooding and for daily safety for Brian and Jackie and their fellow workers at the hospital. May they have chances to share the good news of Jesus with those they encounter.

We pray too for Chad's neighbour, Burkina Faso, which has experienced a further coup – may the country settle down and please help the new rulers to bring stability to the country and help eradicate the Islamist terrorist groups that are causing so much fear and damage to local communities there.

We continue to think of those affected by severe weather in Florida, Cuba and South Carolina. We pray for help to be given to those who need it most, for communities to come

together and help each other clear up and rebuild. We pray especially for the elderly and those with no insurance, that You would provide for them and help them get back on their feet.

Please also help the ongoing efforts to help those affected by Pakistan's extensive flooding. We pray for emergency help to reach those in need but also we pray for wisdom for issues that will need longer term resolutions and planning – grant wisdom to those involved and may they use the financial and other resources they have to best effect. Especially be close to those who have lost loved ones – may they know Your comfort and may Your church in Pakistan be able to show practical love and support at this time.

UK:

We continue to bring our government before you and pray for our prime minister and all those in positions of authority in her administration – as they are faced with so much conflicting advice and pressure, we pray they would be given wisdom to do the right thing, with the right motivations. May they know they can turn to You for guidance and may they make decisions for the benefit of all.

We continue also to uphold the Royal Family as they continue to grieve the loss of the late Queen, particularly for King Charles as he takes up his duties as king. May he know the reality of Your presence and come to value prayer, as his late mother did.

There are many struggling with life at the present time: facing financial pressures, family break-up, addictions, illness. May they turn towards You in their times of need – may they know there is always someone there who cares and will listen to their problems, at any time of day or night. For those who think they're OK and doing well, may they also see their need of Jesus and the peace and security only he can bring.

We pray for our young people, especially the pressures they face from social media. We have been reminded this week, through the tragic case of Molly Russell, of how dangerous a place cyber space can be. Please comfort her family and may social media platforms work together to find ways to limit harm and access to sites that are damaging.

As many students are starting university, we pray for Christian Unions, as they seek to share the Gospel during Freshers' weeks and afterwards – we pray for openness amongst students to consider the claims of Jesus. May Christians know your peace as moving from home can be a very big and scary step - may their faith guide their decisions and choices and bring them comfort.

As we hear of rising numbers of covid cases again, we pray for Your protection from escalating illness in the winter months ahead with the double threat of Covid and flu. May the roll-out of vaccine and flu jabs work to protect the most vulnerable and please enable the NHS to be able to treat all.

Our Church:

We also bring our church before you and we pray for each other – that we would know more of Christ and his love in our individual lives, that we would genuinely love and care for one another.

May we welcome all who come into the building through all our activities during the week, treating them as You would, as people You love and died for.

Bless our ongoing activities we pray – Tiddlywinks, Orbit youth drop-in, Bible study groups, Tuesday coffee morning, etc. We pray for your blessing and inspiration for all involved in leading and supporting these activities faithfully, week in and week out.

We pray too for our Messy Church trial session next Sunday – may this new type of service be effective in reaching people who otherwise wouldn't consider coming to church. As we step out in faith, we pray that you would bring people along and teach us how best to run these services.

We also pray for those who are sick, sad, feeling isolated or confused –may they trust God and his goodness, even through the difficulties of life. May You provide for their needs.

And, so, we bring all our prayers before You this morning and ask that You will answer them – thank you for the privilege we have in doing this, in sharing in Your plans to bless the world and the people in it. We pray that, in Your wisdom, You would act and intervene. We pray this in the name of Jesus and for Your eternal glory. Amen.

Brenda shares our first Bible passage: Luke 14, 25-35

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Our offering hymn today is My hope is built on nothing less, which Trevor plays for us:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly trust in Jesus name.

On Christ the solid rock, I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When weary in this earthly place I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds and will not fail.
On Christ the solid rock, I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

His vow, his covenant and blood are my defence against the flood.
When earthly hopes are swept away he will uphold me on that day.
On Christ the solid rock, I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When the last trumpet's voice shall sound oh may I then in Him be found;
clothed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before his throne.
On Christ the solid rock, I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Author:: Edward Mote,) CCLI SONG # 2836463 Copyright @1982 The Jubilate Group CCL No 5664

Alec leads a prayer of thanksgiving for our gifts and offerings:

Loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the very many gifts you give to us .
Please bless these gifts that we give back to you and use them for the extension of
your kingdom in this place, and even wider fields. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

**Brenda (who has been busy as she also collected our Offering gifts) shares our
second Bible passage: Matthew 7, 24-28**

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Alec brings his message:

IN CHRIST ALONE

We have been looking together in the last few weeks on Sundays and on Thursdays from the book of Hebrews at becoming, being and hopefully remaining disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Being transformed into the image of God is as you know a process; sometimes a very difficult one with pain and suffering, hurt and tears. This transformation process doesn't mean that we are like being cloned. This does not mean like being or behaving like robots. This does not mean being turned out as identical products on a factory floor. We are all different. As we saw last time we are not mass-produced plastic apples; we are individually made, individually

created and so wonderfully made that as David says in Psalm 139 we praise God. We are each one of us an individual creation of Almighty God. We Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like Him.

And He has given us His Word to help us on our way. Now I know there are some reputedly very clever people who make it their aim, their job and really their life to examine and analyse the Bible who look at it, decide what things to cut out and what other things to modify completely or change in some way or other so as to make it more acceptable, more amenable, more appropriate to the humanistic 21st. century or whatever or simply not so difficult to live with but it is this very Word of God for today which shows us who we are in God's sight, a precious creation, made and being remade in His image, jewels, diamonds in the making, people with a future and a hope, people whose lives are filled with love, joy and peace, the fruit of the Spirit living in our hearts and being shown through our lives, those with clear goals and aims in a desperately disorientated world, a world that has lost the plot and gone completely off the rails. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we might sit comfortably together in our nice little church building and enjoy exchanging greetings with one another? Well I do very sincerely hope that we feel at home here and with one another. That's very important isn't it? But the Bible puts it this way; it says we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession that we may declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light. This means too in our daily lives, with our neighbours and friends, to our families, and as a church throughout and outside the borough as well as in in Galligreaves and Wensleyfold.

This is really deep and really far-reaching but it is not complicated. It is maybe detailed and complex but it is understandable to those for whom God has opened their hearts and minds to see and to hear the truth. The Lord Jesus, the Creator of the universe, when He came to earth He showed us how to live. He demonstrated His love for us in giving His life ultimately on the Cross to make it possible for God to forgive us for the mess we had made of our lives by going our own way, by ignoring His Word, the Word of God which is sharper than a two edged-sword and as you know cuts us and forms us, moulds us and shapes us as we are being transformed daily into the image of God in Jesus Christ. We are not angels, neither in our behaviour nor in our essential nature. We may minister to one another but we are not ministering spirits as the angels are.

The title of this message is IN CHRIST ALONE: And we saw last time that without Him as Jesus Himself says we can do nothing; but we can do all things with Christ who strengthens us.

Now I've been doing some thinking about what the Bible says about building our lives and I suppose I could have brought the rather large colourful boxes of Lego bricks from the Tiddlywinks toddlers group in here this morning and we could all have had a go at building houses of various colours and forms and shapes and that would certainly have been a very different style of message but we would have caught on straightaway that the most important part of the building is the foundation, the basis. You know the picture of our lives as a believer being compared with the construction of a building is used at least as many times as any other picture in the Bible. Like for example in the Book of Jude vv. 20-21.

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life."

He could have written, “Remain in the vine”.

Or similarly in Ephesians 2:19-22, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

Or equally in 1 Peter 2:4-5; “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

You see what we are doing? We are looking at what the Word of God says about all this, we are looking at what the Word of God says about building our lives, we are looking at what the Word of God says about the foundation stone, we are looking at what the Word of God says about about the centrality of Jesus Christ in the building of our lives. That`s what it`s about; about what `s written here. We are not clicking in to one or other of the world`s most important contemporary influencers. We are not being channelled along in some kind of esoteric freeway leading more than likely sooner than later to an esoteric freefall without hope of being rescued. We are not putting our trust in some seemingly helpful guidance programme offered as an addition to Bible teaching which turns out to be a fraud or a whitewash. We trust God and His Word.

Now the apostle Paul was in the city of Ephesus for about 3 years and it was time for him to move on. It was a difficult time for him knowing he was leaving the elders of a church whom he loved and cared for, whom he had taught and accompanied and whom he would probably never ever see again on the earth as indeed he never ever did. We can read the true story of Paul`s farewell to the Ephesian elders in the book of the Acts of the Apostles 20: 13-38. In verse 32 we read: “Now I commit you to God and the Word of His grace, which can build you up and give an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (NIV)

I think he is saying in English something like this:

He is saying I trust God to look after you, our marvellous God whose gracious Word can make you into what He wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this fellowship of believers in Jesus our Lord.

You see the main way we go with this, the main means we have to move on with this is with the Word of God, no more and no less; we eat, drink and sleep this Word of God. Yes of course we go to Morrison`s or Tesco or Aldi or Lidl or wherever. But Jesus is the Word of God, the Bread of life, the Living Water. If we live in Him we will never hunger nor thirst. Even those who work in those shops know that what they are selling there is not enough to feed a person`s heart and a person`s soul. Only God`s Word can do that.

The foundation that is built, the foundation that we allow to be built in our lives sets limits. These limits are not to be understood in the sense of restrictive religious rules; they are not limits to our nourishment, growth and development as believers; but a weak or inadequate foundation, a badly-thought out construction plan or a poorly-built property will not stand. Our foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ; but we must dig deeply and discard the hindrances to

knowing Jesus and to walking in His ways. Do we have a personal knowledge of and relationship to Jesus Christ?

Paul says, we are God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. As we were talking about this last Thursday evening, if anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. There is a quality control mechanism; the ultimate QC. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

There are then maybe things that we should dig out of the way in building foundations for our lives. Let us make sure that we do not let go of the commands of God in holding on to the traditions of men. Let me say that once again so that we do not misunderstand this. Let us make sure that we do not let go of the commands of God in holding on to the traditions of men.

Let us not nullify, let us not make to nothing, the Word of God by our traditions that we have handed down and many things like that. These aren't my words; they are Jesus' words as recorded in Mark 7.

Let's not build any prejudices, (racial, denominational, social or personal), into the building of our lives and our church life. Let's not hold preconceptions of what it may or may not mean to be a believer in Jesus. Let's not block the building through unbelief or through rebellion against God, His Word and His people.

We may all be building differently, but there are some characteristics of the buildings that are either similar or the same.

Some time ago I worked in Letchworth Baptist Church, a church with something over 100 members and about 150 worshippers on a Sunday morning. It was kind of a mixture of Baptists and a few Brethren but basically God ran the show. The physical building of the church had won an architectural award for what was really a unique, creative and attractive solution to the challenge of having little space available to build upon and re-develop and more challenging a "V"-shaped plot of land at a not insignificant road junction to work with. By the way this church was the home of at least one of the so-called "Cambridge seven".

Letchworth Garden City has many interesting facets; but one of the most remarkable of these is that every house in the city is different. There are no two houses which are identical. Now if you walk with me today or indeed any day through the Galligreaves estates or through Wensleyfold, you don't need a helmet but for the ladies a head-covering might be a help, you will probably gain the impression that although some of the dwellings are a little different most of the houses look the same; but in Letchworth no two houses anywhere are alike.

It is a paradox but true to say that they are basically the same but essentially different. Each one has an entrance /exit facility, each one has a roof, each one has internal and external waste disposal facilities and so on. Ironically this does not make it any easier to find the properties when you are visiting people.

I think our spiritual lives, our buildings; our houses are more like the houses in Letchworth which are all different, than those in Wensleyfold or Galligreaves. But the houses in this area are equally matched. Our spiritual houses, our spiritual buildings, our lives need to have a solid foundation in Jesus Christ; they need to have adequate and effective waste disposal facilities that is to say provision for forgiveness and cleansing; they require a roof for safety against all the storms of life and the fiery darts of the Evil One; they need order and clarity of purpose which we receive through reading and following the Word of God; they need to have an entrance, access to God through the death and resurrection of God's only Son Jesus, as the old song says, "There is a way back to God from the dark paths of sin; there is a door that is open that you may go in"; and they need to have an exit for when the Lord calls us to Himself at the end of our time on earth when we will come together with all those from this area around this physical church building who have given their lives to Him.

You see you and I may be expressing our faith in the living God in different ways. Not all of you will have a prayer mat like I do in the Manse. But we all pray. Not all of us will use the same translation of the Bible. But we all read God's Word. Some of us will ask God every night before we sleep for forgiveness for anything and everything that we have deliberately or accidentally said or done in the previous 24 hours which was or may have been wrong. Some of us will begin the day with a similar prayer. We may be different but are all one.

We have the same Lord; we share the same faith; but the ways in which we may express this may differ sometimes very considerably. But we are like living stones being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. We are one body in Him.

Now Brenda and indeed maybe all of you are wondering when do we get to the point where we look at those Bible passages she read so clearly?

In the first reading from the Gospel of Luke Jesus said:

'Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, "This person began to build and wasn't able to finish." (Luke 14:28-30)

I remember visiting the main campus at the University of Warwick and looking at the multi-storey car park facility. This car park was really special. I think they had built three or four levels and it looked really cool and practical; except that they had had run out of financial resources to build the ramps linking the different levels so that the upper levels were not accessible to vehicles and it was only possible to park on the ground level. Between the levels the students had placed long ladders so they could gain access to the second, third and fourth levels.

Is that how we sometimes build our lives? It will cost you everything to be a believer in Jesus. Are you prepared to pay the price? I would not have been a disciple of Jesus if I had said to Him I will go anywhere for you but not to Japan. Do we say I will befriend anybody for you but not them? I will attach myself to that church but not with them. That is not what a disciple of Jesus does. He does whatever His Lord tells him or her to do.

In the second reading, Jesus is doing a really long preach up on the mountain to His disciples and they are perhaps surprisingly not wondering when is He going to sit down, when is He going to stop, or a whole range of other possible things. They are not even looking at their

watches or smartphones for the time of day or the soccer scores. No. They are amazed at His teaching because He didn't teach like one of the teachers of the law, not like one of the religious people, but as one who had authority.

'Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.' (Mt. 7:24-27)

We have 2 men: 2 builders; 2 different houses; 2 different foundations. Now of course Jesus isn't talking about houses; He's talking about you and me. He's not talking about routinely going to church and taking part in some kind of religious ritual. And let's make it very clear that the distinction He makes is not between those who hear His words and those who do not. The distinction is between those who hear His words and do something about it and those who simply hear His words and do nothing about it.

Where are you today? Where is your heart this morning? Have you weighed up the cost and given your life back to the Lord Jesus Christ who made you? Are you in Christ?

At this point I inserted a point about the signs created and posted at the church entrance by Paul Carter at my request at the time of the new homes being built that say "Please come in; build on the rock Jesus Christ who is life" as a response to the "Keep out; danger to life" signs on the building site opposite and that very many people see the signs every day whom we can reach by approaching them, speaking and listening to them on our grounds as they walk through.

In Psalm 40:2 we read: "He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."

In Psalm 18:2 we read, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge."

May these words be true for each one of us here today and for all of us watching the recording whenever that is and wherever you may be.

We watch and sing Christ Alone, Cornerstone - which again begins My hope is built on nothing less.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest friend but wholly trust in Jesus name.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest friend but wholly trust in Jesus name.

Christ alone, cornerstone, weak made strong in the Saviour's love;
through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.

When darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone, cornerstone....

When He shall come with trumpet sound oh, may I then in Him be found;
dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless stand before the throne.

Christ alone, cornerstone....

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Alec leads us in Breaking of Bread, he moves from the pulpit to the Communion Table below.

As we join to celebrate communion together Alec reads from 1 Corinthians 11m the words of the Institution.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you, the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said "This is my body, which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of me."

We will share together in the bread as the symbol of the body of Christ - as soon as we have received it let us eat it with thankfulness.

(Trevor plays quietly as the bread is distributed and eaten, "Oh, to see the dawn")

Alec continues: In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Come soon, Lord Jesus. We will retain the cup until all have revived it, and then we will share together as a sign of our unity in the fellowship.

(Trevor plays again - Here is love, vast as the ocean)

We drink together, then Alec prays:

God our Father in heaven, how great is your love for us. You made us, and when we went against you, and didn't go your way, didn't want to be led by you, you sent your son, your only beloved son, the Lord Jesus Christ, the creator of the universe, into the world, to live like us, but without sin. To die on a cross, to be raised from the dead, to be ascended to heaven. To live with you in the heavens now, but now one day this Lord Jesus is coming again. We remember what you have done for us through his death and resurrection. We wait now and think specially of your coming back into the world and as we said before, come soon Lord Jesus. We look forward to being together with all the saints, those who have gone from our fellowship to be with you, those who have left fellowships in different parts of this country and throughout the world, in all ages and in all times, this church, your body, is going to be together in one place. You will be the worship leader, you will have made all the music, and we will worship you from our hearts then as we do now. We lift our hearts to you and praise you and thank you for saving us from sin, for giving us new life in your son, and for being with us every day. We praise you in Jesus name. Amen.

Our closing hymn today is Behold the Lamb.

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us: and we remember:
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.
So we share in this Bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice,
as a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, torn for you: eat and remember
the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the price to make us one.
So we share in this Bread of Life....

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you: drink and remember
he drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.
So we share in this Bread of Life...

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond: and to remember
our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

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We join together saying :

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

As people leave or move through for refreshments, Trevor plays "For I'm building a people of power."