



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on November 5th 2023 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 Communion service today is being led by Alec, with Trevor, Kate and Paul leading the music. Alec spoke freely so no transcript of his message is available.

(As I wasn't at Bethesda and have not been able to watch the service which Jean kindly recorded, I have used other thoughts and prayers from different traditions, particularly for Communion, which I pray you find encouraging, they are in a different font - Judith)

**Welcome- Alec**

**Opening reading Zephaniah 3:14-17**

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.  
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
'Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves.  
He will take great delight in you, in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.'

**Opening hymn "All creatures of our God and King"**

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beam, soft shining moon with silver gleam,  
**O praise him, O praise him,**  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong, white clouds that sail in heaven along,  
O praise him, alleluia!

New rising dawn in praise rejoice, you lights of evening find a voice;  
**O praise him ...**

Cool flowing water, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Fierce fire so masterful and bright giving to us both warmth and light,  
**O praise him ...**

People and nations, take your part, love and forgive with all your heart;  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear, trust God and cast on him your care;  
**O praise him ...**

Let all things their creator bless and worship him in lowliness,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,  
**O praise him ...**

Authors: Jonathan Baird, Ryan Baird, St. Francis of Assisi, William Henry Draper CCLI SONG # 6529800 Copyright © 2013 Sovereign Grace Praise (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) © in this version Jubilate Hymns CCL No 5664

**Notices** - will have been shared by Tony, reminding us particularly of the church members meeting on November 19th, India Sunday, when there will be an opportunity to hear more about Alec's trip to India next month, as well as an opportunity to support him financially.

### **Communion/Breaking of Bread**

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so Lord,  
may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. Amen

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all of the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### COMMUNION HYMN

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;  
such love weeps for the shame I know;  
such love, paying the debt I owe;  
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;  
such love, filling my emptiness;  
such love, showing me holiness;  
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;  
such love streaming through history;  
such love, fountain of life to me;  
O Jesus, such love.

Author:Graham Kendrick CCLI Song # 30536 Copyrights@ 1988 Make Way Music (Admin. by Make Way Music Limited) CCL No 5664

#### **Bible reading 1 Cor. 11:23-27**

For I received from the Lord the teaching that I passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup and said, "This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me."

This means that every time you eat this bread and drink from this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. It follows that if one of you eats the Lord's bread or drinks from his cup in a way that dishonours him, you are guilty of sin against the Lord's body and blood.

## Sharing together in the bread and wine

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

**(The elements are distributed)**

### Prayer after Communion

Lord of heaven, in this eucharist you have brought us near to an innumerable company of angels and to the spirits of the saints made perfect:

as in this food of our earthly pilgrimage we have shared their fellowship, so may we come to share their joy in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.. Amen

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

## Praise songs

Who is like unto Thee, O Lord amongst gods?

Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness,  
fearful in praises, doing wonders?

Who is like unto Thee?

Author: Judy Horner Montemayor CCLI Song # 17377 Copyrights© 1975 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;

He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:

how awesome is the sight our radiant king of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:

He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -

no work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Author: David J. Evans CCLI SONG # 120824 Copyrights © 1986 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL no 5664

**"This is our God"** (shown on the screen)

Remember those walls that we called sin and shame?

They were like prisons that we couldn't escape,

but He came, and He died, and He rose - those walls are rubble now.

Remember those giants we called death and grave?

They were like mountains that stood in our way,  
but He came, and He died, and He rose - those giants are dead now.

**This is our God, this is who He is, He loves us.**

**This is our God, this is what He does, He saves us;**

**He bore the cross, beat the grave, let Heaven and Earth proclaim  
this is our God, King Jesus.**

Remember that fear that took our breath away?

Faith so weak that we could barely pray,.

but He heard every word, every whisper.

Now those altars in the wilderness tell the story of His faithfulness,  
never once did He fail, and He never will.

**This is our God, this is who He is, He loves us...**

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.

Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.

Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did.

Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus.

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.

Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus.

Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh.

Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Him.

**This is our God...**

Songwriters: Patrick Barrett / Steven Furtick / Phil Wickham / Brandon Lake This Is Our God lyrics © All Essential Music, Be Essential Songs CCLI SONG # 7211413 Copyrights@ Brandon Lake Music (Admin by Essential Music Publishing)Phil Wickham Music (Admin. by / Small Stone Media BV, Holland (Admin. in the UK/Eire by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org)) Simply Global Songs (Admin. by / Small Stone Media BV, Holland (Admin. in the UK/Eire by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org)) Capitol CMG Genesis (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Housefires Sounds (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) CCL No 5664

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYn4\\_8Gjh0I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYn4_8Gjh0I) OR

**Prayers are led by Jean:**

**"Let us pray:**

Heavenly Father thank you for all you have done for us over this past week and for bringing us safely here to be with our church family to worship you today.

We confess our need for you today. We need your healing and your grace and sometimes we need to be reminded that you work on our behalf and for all those you love, constantly, powerfully and completely

Forgive us for trying to fix our problems on our own, for running in all different directions to find help when the true help and healing can only be found in you. Forgive us for forgetting how much we need you above everyone and everything.

You see where no else is able to fully see or understand, you know our pains, our worries, our burdens. Thank you that you are able to do far more than we can ever imagine.

We watch with grief and horror as the violence in Israel and Gaza intensifies, following the dreadful terrorist attack on Israel by Hamas. We condemn the acts of violence, particularly those that are targeting innocent civilians - men, women and children who are killed and held

hostage while simply trying to live. We ask that leaders seek a way forward that ends the vicious cycles of violence and finds a way to build peace among peoples and nations, in which everyone can flourish and prosper. We remember that all people are created in your image, and therefore deserve to be treated with respect and dignity, to live lives free of fear and violence.

We pray too for an end to violence in this country, particularly for an end to anti-Semitic violence; our Jewish brothers and sisters deserve to live lives free from fear. No school should have to close because of security threats; places of worship should not need security guards to keep worshippers safe. Prejudice has no place in our society, whether anti-Jewish or anti-Muslim, and the war between Hamas and Israel must not be used to demonise whole communities and destabilise the peace that we so value in our cities and towns.

Father we continue to remember Ukraine, we pray that your peace will reign; that justice and mercy will bring an end to war and terror and that all soldiers from each side can go home and live their lives in peace and harmony respecting their neighbours. Soften Putin's heart Lord, help him to see the wrong he is doing to so many thousands of people.

We ask for your hand on all areas around the world that are troubled, Be with the women of Afghanistan, bit by bit they are having all freedoms taken away and are unable to contribute to their communities because of the restrictions that the Taliban place on them. Help them to stay strong.

We pray for your church throughout the world we remember those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted and tortured for their faith.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who represent us in government and in our own home town. May they be men and women of integrity, guided by a desire for public service and a love of the truth. We ask that they also be just and compassionate.

Father, we bring to you our church family. We all have aches and pains - some more than others! But Father you know those who are really struggling. Please be with them all, may the Doctors do their best to find the best treatment to help them get well, and for those awaiting operations help to keep them well so there is no delay. For those who have had falls and trips be with them, help them to heal and allow them to regain their confidence and give them patience as they recover.

Faithful God as we go out into the world shining with your light and your truth help us to reflect your love in our families, our church and our community; so that the world can witness that we are followers of You and through that witness draw others into your loving care.

We ask all this in the precious name of your Son. Amen"

### **Bible readings, Jane, Jeremiah 23: 16-24**

This is what the Lord All-Powerful says:

"Don't pay attention to what those prophets are saying to you. They are trying to fool you. They talk about visions their own minds made up, not about visions from me.

They say to those who hate me: 'The Lord says: You will have peace.'

They say to all those who are stubborn and do as they please:

'Nothing bad will happen to you.'

But none of these prophets has stood in the meeting of angels to see or hear the message of the Lord.

None of them has paid close attention to his message.

Look, the punishment from the Lord will come like a storm.

His anger will be like a hurricane.

It will come swirling down on the heads of those wicked people.

The Lord's anger will not stop until he finishes what he plans to do.

When that day is over, you will understand this clearly.

I did not send those prophets, but they ran to tell their message.

I did not speak to them but they prophesied anyway.

But if they had stood in the meeting of angels,

they would have told my message to my people.

They would have turned the people from their evil ways and from doing evil.

"I am a God who is near," says the Lord. "I am also a God who is far away.

No one can hide where I cannot see him," says the Lord.

"I fill all of heaven and earth," says the Lord.

### **and Psalm 18: 30-36**

As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord's word is flawless;

he shields all who take refuge in him.

For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

It is God who arms me with strength and keeps my way secure.

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he causes me to stand on the heights.

He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me;

your help has made me great.

You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way.

### **Message "Far and Near"**

There is no written text of the message today as Alec spoke freely.

The theme was 'This is our God'.

We looked at knowing and experiencing God through his creation and through the word of God. We referred to Romans 1:19-20 and Isaiah 40:9-11.

We talked through the potential error of knowing about God instead of knowing God.

The message was just one part of the theme as expressed through readings and songs which was gladly recorded.

### **Closing (offertory) hymn**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry,  
all who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright,

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone,  
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?...**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied,  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

**Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?...**

Author: Daniel Schutte Copyright ©1985 New Dawn Music, Kingsway Music CCL no 5664

### **Closing prayer**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you, and all those you love, now always. Amen.  
Following God's saints in the way of holiness and truth, go in peace of Christ, in the name of Christ. Amen

(As it was All Saints Day on November 1st, you may find this hymn appropriate, sung to the Celtic tune we sometimes use for When I survey.)

**For all the saints who showed your love in how they lived and where they moved,  
for mindful women, caring men, accept our gratitude again.**

**For all the saints who loved your name, whose faith increased the Saviour's fame,  
who sang your songs and shared your word, accept our gratitude, good Lord.**

**For all the saints who named your will and saw your kingdom coming still  
through selfless protest, prayer and praise, accept the gratitude we raise.**

**Bless all whose will or name or love reflects the grace of heaven above.**

**Though unacclaimed by earthly powers, your life through theirs has hallowed ours.**

John L. Bell (©Iona 1996)