



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on April 7th 2024 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.

**Welcome**

**Opening hymn "Tell me the old, old story" (chosen by Gwynneth)**

Tell me the old, old story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.  
Tell me the story simply, as to a little child;  
for I am weak and weary, and helpless and defiled.

**Tell me the old, old story; tell me the old, old story,  
tell me the old, old story of Jesus and His love.**

Tell me the story slowly, that I may take it in -  
that wonderful redemption, God's remedy for sin.  
Tell me the story often, for I forget so soon;  
the early dew of morning has passed away at noon.

**Tell me the old, old story....**

Tell me the same old story when you have cause to fear  
that this world's empty glory is costing me too dear.  
Tell me the story always, if you would really be,  
in any time of trouble, a comforter to me.

**Tell me the old, old story...**

Authors: Arabella Katherine Hankey, William Howard Doane CCLI Song #109735 Copyrights@Words and Music Public Domain CCL No 5664

**Notices, Jane, including the Special Church Members Meeting to be held on April 28th following the service, when the future of the Church will be under consideration.**

**Communion service including firstly the Bible reading ( 1 John 1:5-10 - Brenda) - Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness**

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all[b] sin.

8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Followed by a short devotional message by Alec - these are the powerpoint notes.

**The aim of the message:**

That we walk in the light  
that we live out the truth  
that the blood of Christ purifies all our sins  
that we know forgiveness of sins  
that we have fellowship with him  
that we have fellowship with one another.

**Acts 2 42-47**

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. **43** Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. **44** All the believers were together and had everything in common. **45** They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. **46** Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, **47** praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**If we ignore the Message:**

We walk in the darkness,  
we lie  
we deceive ourselves  
we make God out to be a liar  
we do not live out the truth  
His word is not in us  
we do not have fellowship with God, even if we claim to.  
we do not have fellowship with each other.

**And then the singing of our communion hymn,**

**Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you;  
for I am come that you might have life;  
eat of My flesh and live, eat of My flesh and live.**

My blood was shed for many, taking away your sin,  
and if I shall make you free then you shall be free indeed, you shall be free indeed.  
**Take, eat, .....**

Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow,  
though they be red like crimson they shall be as wool, they shall be as wool.  
**Take, eat, .....**

For God so loved the world He gave His only Son,  
that whosoever believeth on Him might have everlasting life, might have everlasting life.  
**Take, eat, .....**

Author: Paul Simmons CCLI Song # 270372 Copyright © 1985 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd)

Alec then led a time of Communion, with Jane distributing first the bread and then the wine as Trevor played Blest be the tie that binds. Afterwards, a short time of silence was held, as we remembered those unable to be with us today, whether because of work commitments, ill health, in care homes and hospital.

Our post-communion Song "He will hold me fast", sung in Ukrainian, Russian and English, was shown on the screen:

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;  
for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.  
**He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
for my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.**

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;  
precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;  
bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.  
**He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast....**

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.  
raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast  
'til our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last!  
**He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast....**

Authors: Words: vv. 1-2 Ada Habershon (1861-1918), Public Domain. Alt. words, new words (v.3), and music: Matthew Merker CCLI SONG # 7016161 Copyrights © 2013 Getty Music Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. CCL No 5664  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaHUhGn7smU>

**Open testimony time** interspersed with songs and hymns including

**"Father I place into your hands" (chosen by Brenda)**

Father, I place into your hands the things I cannot do,  
Father, I place into your hands the things that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,  
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,  
for I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face, we love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest,  
for we know we always can trust you.

Father, I want to be with you and do the things you do.  
Father, I want to speak the words that you are speaking too.

Father, I want to love the ones that you will draw to you,  
for I know that I am one with you

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**Shay read a short passage from John.**

**"My Jesus my Saviour"**

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord there is none like you:  
all of my days, I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength,  
let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing  
power and majesty, praise to the King:  
mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of Your name.**

**I sing for joy at the work of your hands,  
forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand,  
nothing compares to the promise I have in you.**

Author: Darlene Zschech CCLI SONG # 1406918 Copyrights©1993 Wondrous Worship (Admin. by Song Solutions [www.songsolutions.org](http://www.songsolutions.org))  
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**Becky read a poem: "When you thought I wasn't looking"**

**"For I'm building a people of power"**

For I'm building a people of power and I'm making a people of praise  
that will move through this land by My Spirit and will glorify My precious Name.  
Build Your Church, Lord, make us strong, Lord join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son.  
Make us one, Lord, in Your body in the kingdom of Your Son.

Author: Dave Richards CCLI SONG # 33801 Copyright © 1977 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd), CCL No 5664

**Shirley shared some family news, which she felt was God showing his many blessings, as she has reconnected with a long lost family member, now living close to her brother in Cornwall. As she is visiting her brother soon, she will be able to meet Tim again after many years, which fills her heart with joy, thank you Lord.**

**"Be still for the presence of the Lord"**

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

"The Lord's my shepherd"(Crimond)

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
in pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again; and me to walk doth make  
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod and staff my comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd in presence of my foes;  
my head Thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;  
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

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**Prayers were led by Jane,**

Jesus, my Lord, my Saviour, there is no other like you! Through You the World and the Universe were created and each one of us in Your own image, but Heavenly Father, your thoughts and ways are so much higher than ours. You know all things, You are everywhere and You are all-powerful but, even so, You know us each by name; You see what we do, and what we don't do, and yet You still love us. We thank You and praise You for your mercy and grace. You bring light into our darkness and through Jesus's death you give us new life. We again ask for Your forgiveness for all the times we have let You down over the last week. Thank you that the blood of Jesus purifies us from all our sins when we sincerely confess them to you. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit who changes us, teaches us and enables us to grow into the people You created us to be. Thank you for all those who have been willing to share with us today, so that we can learn from one another and rejoice together in your love and grace.

Father, we pray again for your world, made perfect but marred by our selfishness. Your Word tells us that we should love others as much as we love ourselves, that we should even love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us but, at the moment, war and conflict seem to reign supreme. Lord, may Your name be honoured in all nations; change hearts of hate to ones of love and reconciliation and bring peace and comfort to all who suffer and grieve. We pray especially for the families of the aid workers killed in Gaza, not just of those seven international workers who died this week but also of the hundreds of Palestinians who have been killed trying to help others. We pray for the influence of the international community in trying to curb the death and destruction; we pray for those attempting to bring about a cease-fire. We pray for leaders on both sides that they would have more concern for their citizens than for their own ideologies. Lord, we pray for Your peace.

Father, as we look at your broken world, so we also pray for our broken country, wondering why life is so difficult for so many: the cost of living, the NHS not able to cope, violence on our streets, family breakdown becoming the norm and many both old and young suffering from mental health problems. The answer is that as a country we have turned away from You and so as a nation, lost Your blessing. Father, forgive us, as Your body here on Earth, for not speaking out your gospel and demonstrating your love so that your name would be honoured and many would turn to Jesus as their Saviour and accept your Lordship in their lives. Please pour out your Spirit across the land once more and embolden your church to go out in your name.

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in our fellowship here who need your comfort and healing, so many suffering from serious health issues. Lord, please be especially close to them and we pray for those who care for them to give accurate diagnoses and correct timely treatment that their symptoms may be eased. Thank you that you know each one; may they know your presence and healing.

Let us now bring together all our prayers as we join in saying the prayer Jesus taught us:

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.

### **before our Closing hymn “Blessed Assurance” (chosen by Alice)**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.**

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long**

Perfect communion, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.

Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

**This is my story, this is my song....**

Perfect submission, all is at rest. I in my Saviour am happy and bless'd,

watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

**This is my story, this is my song....**

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**Alec shared a Closing prayer, before all joined 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.**