



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on February 11th 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. Carol, our newest Church Member, is speaking to us today; Trevor is playing the piano accompanied by Kate and Judith.

**We are welcomed by Alec, who introduces our Opening hymn:**

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not as Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

**"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

**"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"....**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"...**

Authors: Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan CCLI SONG # 18723 Coprights © Words and music: 1923. Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company CCL no 5664 LIVE MUSICIANS

**As Tony is away, Alec shares the Notices of our weekly activities** - noting that Tiddlywinks will not meet as it is half-term. New Life Church International meet as usual on Friday and Saturday, and Bethesda is open on Saturday morning for a drop-in session. We were told that there is a new draft rota available, together with a "dates for your diary" sheet, a Data protection sheet to be completed if you wish to be included in the new address book, and our "Pray for each other" sheet.

Alec then shared Health and Safety information, including the sounding of the fire alarm, which when next sounded will indicated the need to evacuate the building , hopefully for a practice rather than an actual fire! All procedures are displayed in every room, please read and inwardly digest.

**Alec then introduced our praise songs, beginning with:**

King of kings, majesty, God of Heaven living in me,  
gentle Saviour, closest friend, strong deliverer, beginning and end,  
all within me falls at your throne.

**Your majesty, I can but bow. I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve I live to serve your majesty.**

Earth and Heaven worship you, love eternal, faithful and true,  
who bought the nations, ransomed souls, brought this sinner near to your throne;  
all within me cries out in praise.

**Your majesty, I can but bow...**

Author: Jarrod Cooper CCLI SONG # 1581778 Copyrights@ 1996 Sovereign Lifestyle Music CCL No 5664

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) CCL No 5664

All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord.  
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?

**Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee and worship Him alone.**

I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain to reconcile man to God.

**Forever You will be the Lamb upon the throne,  
I gladly bow the knee and worship You alone.**

Authors: Noel Richards, Tricia Richards CCLI SONG # 120556 Copyrights@1987 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

### **Janet then read Philippians 3: 7-14**

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in [a] Christ - the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

**Carol came to share her Message "Running the race- finishing well" talking from the platform, without notes. You can watch and listen to it in full on our Youtube channel.**

She began by saying last week, with Alec, we looked at waiting, today we would be looking at running, and she then prayed asking for us to take on board all that God would say to us this morning. She used a number of sporting illustrations, showing us that God was and is still able to use people seen by the world as failures, or those who have 'messed-up'. The bible tells of many who give up, or wish to give up, including the Israelites when they left Egypt. But God is a God who is on the move and wants us to be on the move - not literally but in our relationship with him - we love him, listen to him more day by day - its easy to get comfortable in a situation but God says there's more.

The christian life may be thought of as a race - sometimes referred to as a marathon rather than a sprint, but maybe a relay, where we all have the baton ready to hand it over. God says keep on running, keep pressing on, keep passing on the baton. We all have times when we feel we can no longer carry on, but God in his grace and patience encourages us to continue. We may go off course, we may knock others over, we may have left our lane but we need to get back on course ready to pass the baton over. The Olympic torch needs to be passed on, not stuck on a mantelpiece to be admired!

There were sporting events in Roman times, including running races - for the men! The watching women would roll solid gold balls across the track to distract them, and we also come across the equivalent of golden balls in our lives!

As a fellowship we are looking at future ministry, and will get golden balls thrown in our path! We need to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, and just do it - keep running, surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, remembering that Jesus wants us to finish well - do not stop short of your destiny, God is more than big enough to equip us to fulfil the work he has called us to do.

**As Carol finished speaking, Graham softly played 'Shalom' on the guitar whilst the offering was taken, then our Prayers were led by Jane Farmer:**

"Father God, we thank you that we can come to you as our Heavenly Father and that you love and care for us more than any earthly father could do. Even when we behave like disobedient children, wanting to go our own way instead of following you, you still love us and long for us to come back to you in repentance and faith, even though we grieve your heart. Thank you that because of Jesus giving his life to pay the price for our wrong-doing, we can come and say sorry, and you forgive us time and time again! We thank and praise you for your mercy and love. Help us, Lord, to be as merciful and forgiving to others as you are to us.

We pray again for our broken world and today we pray especially for children and young people as they try to negotiate the dangers and pitfalls of the modern world. The prevalence of knife crime amongst teenagers is horrifying, Lord, and the effects of social media and some internet sites, causing youngsters to take their own lives or the lives of others, is heartbreaking and must break your heart too, Father. You urge us in your Word to think on those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy (Phil. 4:8) and yet these children are bombarded by exactly the opposite every day. We pray especially for those parents who have lost their children to violence or suicide but are working tirelessly, in their memory, to change the law so that children are better protected. We pray for all media companies that they would start to take more responsibility for the material they allow to go out, that it may be transformed from having a negative influence into being a positive influence for the good of individuals and society. We pray for all those in our Government and Parliament that they would give this the highest priority. Especially during the coming half-term week, we ask for your protection over all children and young people and that you would hold back the forces of evil in our society.

We again pray for peace across the world in the places of conflict. Change the hearts of those with the power and authority to stop the destruction and bloodshed. We pray especially for the

Christians in these lands that they may '*know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings*' that others may see their faith and want Christ for themselves. (Phil. 3:10)

We pray for our own fellowship here at BBC: Lord, we ask that you would be very close to those who are in hospital, in care homes, in their own homes but suffering pain and difficulties; let them know of your love for them and give them your strength each day. Be also with those who care for them and renew their strength too.

We think particularly at this time of those who are grieving the loss of a loved one and also those who are remembering family members who passed away just a year ago. In your mercy, Lord, bring them the comfort that only you can give helping them to recall the good times and not the times of pain.

As a church, we come to you, Father, as we start to look at future ministry in this place. Lord, we need your guidance and direction. You know our desire to reach out beyond these walls that many may come to know your Son, Jesus, as their Lord and Saviour. Father, show us Your mind and Your way forward, that we may all know clearly what Your plan is and we may be united in following by the power of your Holy Spirit. May we indeed go forward, '*forgetting what is behind,*' and '*press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of [each one of us]*'. (Phil. 3:12,13)

We ask all our prayers in the precious name of Jesus. Amen."

### **We joined in our Closing hymn:**

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee:**

**'How great Thou art, how great Thou art.'**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee:**

**'How great Thou art, how great Thou art.'**

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
and see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze:

**Then sings my soul....**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

**Then sings my soul....**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;  
then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
and then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art

**Then sings my soul...**

Songwriter: Stuart Hine CCLI SONG # 14181 How Great Thou Art lyrics © 1949 Sony/atv Tree Publishing, Universal Music Publishing, I Am They Publishing, Manna Music Inc CCL no 5664

Alec announced that the Funeral Service for David Andrew will take place at Pleasington Crematorium at 1.30pm on February 23rd, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at here, at Bethesda Chapel.

He also shared that, following the Special Church Members Meeting held last Sunday, there will be a further meeting to be held here on Sunday March 3rd, following the morning service, to which members both of the church and congregation are invited.

Finally we said the Grace together:

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.