



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on January 21st 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 Tim, with Trevor, Paul QW Kate and Judith helping to lead the singing. Alec introduced:

Tim, who welcomed everyone, thanking Alec for his welcome and saying how good it was to see both familiar and new faces! Tim reminded us that we are really here to meet with God, who saves us, keeps us and sustains us, as so

He invited us to lift our voices in song:

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

Tim then led in prayer: Thank you Fhelp us do that through our lives, as a token of the gratitude we have ather God for the words we have just sung, reminding us that there is no-one like you, no-one like your son. Thank you for that love that is extended to us, to us rebels who wanted nothing to do with you, yet you loved us still and gave your precious son to save us. Thank you that you are our refuge, that we may know your protection through our lives. Thank you that Jesus was prepared to humble himself, to leave the glory of heaven and become a man, and was prepared to humble himself even to death on the cross for us. Thank you for all he suffered and all he has accomplished for us. Lord we want to praise and glorify you because of all that Jesus has done, and your great plan of salvation for us. We pray you will be with us in this service, that we may listen and learn from your word and be open to the promptings of your Holy Spirit as we meet here together. We ask these things in Jesus name. Amen.

Tony shared the weeks notices: Ladies Bible Study on Tuesday morning, Tiddlywinks on Wednesday morning, Leadership meeting on Wednesday evening, and Churches Together will be hosting an online service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - see Judith for further details. New Life Church will meet as usual on Friday and Saturday. There is a

Saturday morning Drop-in session. He also reminded us of the Special Church Members Meeting to be hold following the service on Feb 4th, considering Future Ministry and Funding thereof.

We joined in singing again: expressing our thanks to the faithful God we know:

"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 Copurights © Words and music: 1923. Renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Company CCL no 5664

Tim then led us in a time of confession. God is so faithful to us yet we are not always faithful to him. We let him down so many times in our lives and we go our own way, so its good that we come now to have a time of confession - asking for Gods mercy and grace.

He prayed: Most merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have sinned against you in thought, and word and deed. We have wandered away from you like lost sheep. We have broken your laws, we have not not loved you with our while heart and we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have followed our own wills and desires and have failed to seek you and follow your will for our lives. We confess we have left undone things we should have done and at the same time done things we should not have done. Lord we beg you to spare us as we confess our faults. In your mercy and for the sake of your dear son who died for us, we please forgive us for what we have been, help us to change what we are and direct us to what we should be, that we might do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Tim encouraged us by reading from Psalm 103: reminding us that the Lord is compassionate and gracious to us, before again inviting us to sing together:

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice;
you became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.

**And once again I look upon the cross where you died.
I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank you, once again I pour out my life.**

Now you are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now I marvel at this saving grace,
and I'm full of praise once again,
I'm full of praise once again.
And once again...

**Thank you for the cross, thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross my friend.
Thank you for the cross, thank you for the cross,
thank you for the cross my friend.
And once again...**

Author: Matt Redman CCLI SONG # 1564362 Copyright © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music CCLI No 5664

Today's Prayers of Intercession were led by Jean W

Heavenly Father because of this day, the day you set aside for us, we come and worship you and gather in your presence. Please open our hearts and minds, ready to worship and praise you. We ask that you bless this time of worship so that we may be uplifted and inspired by your presence. Fill us with your love and grace, and help us to honour you in all that we do.

We thank you for all you have done for us this week, for helping us through each day helping us to face any difficulties that have cropped up and for the opportunities we have had to thank you for the good things that have happened.

Father God we are so grateful that you forgive us for the things we have done and thought this week that don't honour your name and we thank you that you love us so much that you allow us to start each day afresh to try again. We know so little about the depth, breadth, and height of Your love for us and we ask Your forgiveness for our human failings.

Father there are so many problems in this broken world we live in. Please put a restraining hand on those in power who seek to cause such devastation in Ukraine, Israel, Afghanistan and other countries around the world. Help them to remember their countrymen who they are putting in danger and risking them being killed. Please be with the men, women and children who have been left with no homes and nothing but what they stand up in and could carry and even being denied the basics of life like food, water and heat. We can sympathise when we see the pictures on the news but I don't think we can truly understand their levels of desperation and distress.

We thank you that we are able to praise and worship you openly without fear of retribution. Please be with our fellow Christians who need to be so careful of where and how they worship you. Let them feel your presence and love to give them the courage to keep on.

We pray for our country we ask for your guidance on the Prime Minister and the government help them to be honest and work with integrity on behalf of the country and give them wisdom to make good decisions.

Father we ask for your healing for the Princess of Wales and trust she will soon be home with her family and quickly recovering and we also ask for your care over King Charles

who is due to have an operation in this coming week. May he too quickly make a full and speedy recovery.

We thank you for all those who work in the NHS for the extreme difficulties that they are facing at the moment. Help them to do the jobs they are trained for with grace and kindness.

Lord we ask for you to guide our local council help them to make wise and considered decisions with the financial cuts that need to be made.

We thank you for our friends and families. We know it isn't always straight forward so when hiccoughs and problems arise please give us the right words to diffuse problems and bring our relationships back to normal.

Lord we thank you for our church family. We ask you to put a healing hand on those who are ill, in pain and generally struggling with life at the moment. Give patience for those who are awaiting appointments. Please give us tolerance to accept the things we cannot change. We thank you that you are always ready to answer our prayers even if we don't get the answers we expect and we know that things we ask for are granted only in Your time.

Father we pray this trusting and believing in you. Amen

Now as a church family lets us say the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples

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.

Tim once more invited us to sing - accompanied by shakers, bells and actions -

*Our God is a great big God, our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God and He holds us in His hands.*

*He's higher than a skyscraper and He's deeper than a submarine;
He's wider than the universe and beyond my wildest dreams.
He's known me and He's loved me since before the world began,
how wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan.*

*Our God is a great big God, our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God and He holds us in His hands.*

Authors: Jo Hemming, Nigel Hemming CCLI SONG # 3373437 Copyrights © 2001 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire) (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd)CCL No 5664

(The congregation appeared to enjoy singing it so much we sang it through again!)

Bible reading Hebrews 10: 19-25 (read by Alec whilst Sheila continues her rehabilitation following hip surgery after a fall.)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to

cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Tim then gave his Talk from these notes: showing various illustrations on the screen:



1. **Being invited into God's party (v 19 – 21)**
 - We're invited into God's presence – the Most Holy Place
 - Why? Because there's a now better High Priest and better sacrifice – Jesus, who fully dealt with sin once and for all to make the way open
 - The heavy curtain of the temple was torn in two to show that the way is now open to all
 - Have we gone through the door of the party? By admitting we're wrong, believing Jesus paid the price and committing our lives to him

Four top party tips



2. **Enjoying the party. How can we be good party guests? Four 'lettuces' (!) (v 22 – 25)**
 - Let us draw near to God (through prayer and his word) – keeping our eyes on Jesus
 - Let us hold unswervingly to hope – being future-focused believers
 - Let us spur one another on – God has pre-prepared good deeds for us all to do – let's support one another in finding and doing them
 - Let us not give up meeting together – church is for mutual support in the hard times as we approach Jesus' return.

We closed as we sang our Offering song:

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal,

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us night unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal.....

Unto the grave, what will we sing? "Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, then sin and death will be destroyed and we will feast in endless joy when Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;

Authors: Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker CCLI Song # 7147502 Copyrights © 2020 Getty Music Hymns and Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Love Your Enemies Publishing (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Messenger Hymns (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Jordan Kauflin Music (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org) Matthew Merker Music (Admin. by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org) CCL No 5664

Tim closed in prayer, Sing Hallelujah! Christ our hope in life and death! Thank you for all you've done for us, thank you for being our Great High Priest and our perfect sacrifice, Thank you that we can cling to the hope that you rose from death and that you that you will take us home to be with you. Thank you for these gifts, a token of our love and gratitude to you and pray they will be used wisely in your service here, in Jesus name. Amen .

We finished our service, encouraging each other by saying together the words of The Grace:

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.