

My apologies for the delayed arrival of the service from June 26th - I've spent some time with my daughter Rachel, and in addition Tim has also been very busy and hasn't been able to send through any notes for the service. Anyway, hopefully my attempts at summarising the service will be helpful and enable you all to continue to be a part of our Church family.



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on June 26th 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 led by Tim, as we continue our series on Prayer.

**Tim also plays the piano as we assemble for worship, before he welcomes everyone to Bethesda Chapel.**

**He gives a warm welcome to all, on this bright, breezy and summery morning.** A number of people are away on holiday at the moment, particularly Alec, who is away for 2 weeks for his summer holiday. He is contactable, but obviously we do not want to disturb his holidays if possible, so the first port of call for any concerns would initially be the Deacons at this time. This was all Tim wanted to say by means of an introduction, apart from reading 1 verse from Thessalonians Chapter 5 and verse 18, which reminds us that we should be giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. Tim continued by saying that we don't always feel like doing this, but nonetheless we ought to, and so giving thanks is something we shall be focusing on this morning, as we continue our series on prayer, so we come to God with thankful hearts. This was reflected in our first song - **Give thanks**, which Tim (being multi-purpose today!) played on the piano. Unfortunately Esther wasn't well and therefore wasn't with us to lead the singing this morning - we wish her well.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say 'I am strong', let the poor say 'I am rich',  
because of what the Lord has done for us;

and now let the weak say 'I am strong', let the poor say 'I am rich',  
because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks...

AUTHOR: Henry Smith CCLI SONG # 20285\*© Copyright 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCL No 5664

**Tim left the piano and returned to the pulpit to lead in prayer:**

"Thank you Lord for the reminder, both from your word and the song we have sung, that we should give thanks to you in all circumstances, Lord we should be coming to you this morning with grateful hearts, particularly as that song reminded us of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us. Lord, because of what he has done we who are poor, are rich beyond measure because we've been brought into your family as we trusted Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. Lord, we have a home in heaven and a place in your family and we are so grateful to you for all you have done for us that's so undeserved. So Lord, help us to approach you this morning with thankful hearts full of praise to you for what you've done for us. Help us as we go through our service to learn more of you and your ways, and how we can maintain that attitude of thanks to you in all the circumstances of life.

We ask all this in Jesus name. Amen"

**Tim then reaches down under the pulpit and shows us a bag of ring doughnuts!**

**He also shows a picture of them on the screen, with all different toppings.**

He asks who like a them and about half admit they do! (Barbara likes ones with chocolate on the top!) Tim took a bite, confirming they are indeed very tasty, although perhaps not too good for our health! He continues by saying how we should not focus on the hole in the middle, perhaps feeling cheated out of more deliciousness, but should concentrate on the doughnut and how good it tastes!

Sometimes we are tempted to focus on what we are missing rather than be grateful for all we have, and he finished with a little ditty:

**"As you go through life, make it your goal, to look at the doughnut and not at the hole!"**

**Tim invited us to sing again, this time a new song we tried to sing recently,**

He suggested that we listen to it initially, then join in as we feel comfortable, eventually singing it as a round in 3 parts. Debbie first played it on the screen as individual verses, which we sang all together, and finally we sang all three verses simultaneously, harmonising beautifully!

**"Jesus lead us to the Father"**

Jesus, lead us to the Father, by your Spirit, help us draw near.

As we come with awe and gladness, help us draw near.

Alleluia, alleluia, help us draw near.

**Tim invited Becky to come and lead us in our prayers.**

**Becky began by saying that these were perhaps rather more personal this week, than on other occasions (and she's allowed me to share that her new great granddaughter has been diagnosed with a condition called Cystic Fibrosis, which has some bearing on her thoughts and concerns).**

'Dear Heavenly Father, we come to you this morning in prayer. We want to open our hearts to you and ask you to help us with our worries, anxieties and concerns, in different areas of our daily lives.

Each day seems to bring a problem, sometimes big, sometimes small, not even worth stressing about. Needless to say we do worry about it. Whilst we probably can't fix it, or find an answer that is the perfect solution to that problem, we need to remember to bring that problem to you Lord, and then let it rest with you, and to know that you will decide what is right for us and that particular situation.

We do in this particular incident, bring our concerns to you about our Pastor and church members. We seek your guidance so much Lord in this area of our lives at present. As a church can we come together, with your help dear Father, and be more forgiving with one another, more able to realise that each one of us has a different strength and a different weakness, but that also, we all have qualities different from each other too. Instead of being against one another, please give us the wisdom to pull together and use these different strengths and qualities to help each other just as your beloved Son did with his disciples. My children are each one different from the other, they squabble and argue but, they are always there for one another, absolutely always. Please Father God help us as a group of people who all love you and each other, to not dwell on our differences of opinion, but seek your wisdom on how to give the best of ourselves towards helping each other. Lord if you gave up on us every time we disappointed you, I might be top of your list.

Another point we seem to keep bringing to you Heavenly Father is our healthcare system. We do keep praying about our worries and concerns over the NHS, we do. You know about the problem Lord, we don't have to keep repeating ourselves. Again it is very difficult when you are waiting for tests and treatment yourself but I pass this to you as well, my lord. Show us patience and help us to trust that in the really big scenarios, the very urgent need, there is immediate help in most cases. As a family we know how blessed we are for the care being given to our new little girl Harper and her mummy and daddy. Nothing is too much trouble for the NHS and their dedication to this tiny little patient. How blessed are we for the scientists who come up with the new medications and treatments and even cures for these such illnesses. Please Lord help us, especially myself, when we are going to grumble because we don't get treatment as quickly as we would like. Again Lord we ask you to give us patience and understanding when things don't just happen to go the way we would like it to go.

Lord another repeated requests is for your intervention into the war in Ukraine and Russia and lots of other countries. All we can do is pray and donate et cetera. Again we bring this worry to you. We ask you for wisdom and compassion for the broken and separated families, comfort for the lonely and bereaved. Please let these wars cease. Please let the governments have a change of heart and bring out different laws. God we don't know what to do except pray, so Lord please hear our prayers. The same with the own communities, help us all to help each other. Fill us with compassion and courage and imagination how to help people less fortunate than ourselves. We could support one another, encourage one another, make a little more time for one another. We pray for patience Father God, that if we don't get a response quick enough that we don't give up so very easily. Yes we are all busy or tired or have families of our own to attend to, so sometimes we give up on what we think of as a lost cause. Help us not to do this Lord, as you never give up on us. Make us brave, make us bold. We hold back sometimes because we think we can't fix anything, whatever we do, it doesn't make any difference. You never stop caring, never stop loving, never never stop listening.

Please Lord help us all here at Bethesda to help and encourage each other. Help us to support our Pastor and deacons.

Now to thank you Father God for all the blessings we have received from you. Thank you for the lovely weather we have been having recently. Thank you for the lovely flowers and the bumblebees on our flowers, of which there are many, many. Thank you that nearly everyone goes out for walks in the lovely sunshine and stops to greet each other. Thank you for all the children laughing and playing outside, thank you for the many carers I have seen this week out with young adults with learning disabilities. Thank you for the time I shared with my family and precious new baby this week. Thank you for love that flows between myself and Juliet and her family, for my being able to visit Marion and Brian and help Lily my neighbour. Thank you that John has improved so much this last week. Father God thank you for your love and protection over each and everyone of us.

Thank you that when we feel lost or worried and unsure that we can always, always talk to you, knowing that you are always there to listen. Thank you for doing this right now. I pray these things in Jesus name. Amen.'

**Tim then asked us to continue with our theme of thankfulness and praise as we sang together our offering hymn, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. Again, he moved to the piano to play for us.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;  
let the amen sound from His people again,  
gladly for aye we adore Him.

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**Tim received the gifts, and returning to the pulpit he led in a prayers of thanks:**

'Father indeed we do have so much to praise you for and thank you for. Thank you that you are the Almighty God, the King of creation, the one who's given us everything that we have. Lord we just want to offer these gifts to you as a small token of the thanks, praise and love that we owe you for all that you've done for us. So Lord, we pray that these gifts will be taken and used wisely for this place and in many others to bless many people and to bring your kingdom into many peoples lives. Amen'

**Graham came to read from 1 Chronicles 29, v 10-20, reading from the NIV.**

### **David's Prayer**

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying  
"Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.  
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things.  
In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham,

Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.”

Then David said to the whole assembly, “Praise the Lord your God.” So they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.

**Tim shared his message, this is a brief summary.**

He began by saying that prayer is vital to our spiritual lives, and should be our very way of life - as Billy Graham said, it should be a habit, not just for use in emergencies! We may think our praying is weak, but the power of prayer is in the one who hears, not the one who says it, so our prayers do make a difference. We can learn more about prayer by using the guidance we find in the bible, as we are trying to do at the moment, by looking at some of the prayers recorded there - we began with the prayer of Nehemiah, who prayed and responded, and also prayed an arrow prayer at a time of great need. His was a private prayer, whereas today's is a public prayer. David was now an old man, praying in front of all the people. He had been on the throne for 40 years, had known success and failure, he had done the right things but had also gone badly wrong. He'd known war as well times of peace. He knew about forgiveness, he'd known great sorrow but also joy in his life, he'd experienced loyalty but also betrayal. In all these things, God had been there and been kind to him, and so David wanted to do something for God in return - building a place for the Ark of the Covenant - a temple. However God said he was not to do this as he was a warrior and had spilt blood, but rather his son, Solomon, would be the one to complete the building. This would be the centre of the spiritual life of the nation, where future generations would come to learn of God and speak to him, it would be the focus of the spiritual life of the people. Although David was probably disappointed that he would not see the completed building, he still wanted to make the preparations for the work. God told him the designs and plans for the temple, and David wrote down all the detailed instructions, believing that the hand of God was upon him to give him the understanding of what was necessary. Of course, resources were also needed, especially for building work on this scale, and we read how David set an example by donating what was, in essence, the whole of his personal fortune for the work. We read about massive quantities of gold and silver, metal, stone and wood - in today's terminology a multi-million pound donation to this project. David then challenged the people, asking who would consecrate themselves to the Lord,

and they responded by also willingly donating huge amounts of money and materials for the temple. This generosity meant that Solomon, when he started the building work, could do so with the resources already in place rather than having to take on debt, as recorded in verse 9 saying that the people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David also rejoiced, not only for the gifts themselves, but for the peoples heart attitude towards God.

This is the background to our reading and the prayer that we have just had read to us by Graham. These are the last recorded public words that David spoke, reflecting his relationship with God, and we can learn a lot from this prayer.

1. There are 4 characteristics shown in this prayer (all starting with P), that should characterise our prayers and attitudes. Firstly, praise and thankfulness

Permanent ; V 10: Praise be to you O Lord, from everlasting to everlasting - a faithful God, not fickle and changeable, but permanent and so we can always rely on him.

Powerful: V 11 Yours is the greatness, the power and the splendour ; not only permanent but has power, but also loving and benevolent, who loves to give to his people.

Provider: V12 - shows that God is a Provider, his blessings flow out as David had seen throughout his life. He is the ruler of all things, He makes plans for us, and can be relied on to fulfil his purposes to us.

Praise: V13, Now our God we give you thanks, and praise your name, thankfulness can be a key to a contented life, when we realise how much God loves us and what his provision for us has been. Thankful for what he has done for us, past, present and future faithfulness.

David was now an old man, not able to fight battles, not able to build temple, where would he have been without God's love - where would he have been without the kindness and forgiveness of God? Where would we be?

2. David recognised that everything he and his people had came from God, as we see in v 14, and v 16, all comes from your hand. He gives the credit to God, who had enabled people to be generous, to give back to build the temple. David himself was from a small town, Bethlehem, 8th son, started with nothing, no

wonder he asks who am I, who are my people that we should be able to give to you like this? Like Moses in Promised Land - Relying on Gods Goodness.

What About Us? Nothing truly is our own, money, property, knowledge, we are just temporary stewards, every good and perfect gift is from above. We are blessed with so much. Why? Good is faithful, God gives them to bless us, to give us enjoyment, but also to share, to bless others - with money, time, knowledge and experience. God needs nothing from us but when Gods people are truly touched by God they want to give back to him. Maybe we believe it theoretically, but do we always believe it practically? Sometimes we want to hold back for ourselves, but all is held in trust for God.

3. David realises that life is fleeting, our time on earth is uncertain, passes quickly like a shadow, we are aliens and strangers in God's sight like our forefathers. Abraham etc lived in tents, but God has an eternal home for us that will not pass away. What is more important - here and now or eternal life? We can of course pray for day-to-day needs, ( as we were taught in the Lords prayer) but we should also focus on the lasting consequences of our actions - do not store up treasures on earth but in heaven - where your treasure is there your heart is also. What eternal investments do we make in our lives? We should use our God given gifts for his glory and honour not ours. We store up treasure when we love our neighbours, or in fact do anything in obedience to his call.

4. David knows importance of faith to the next generation, this is the first time in his prayer that he requests anything from God, asking him to keep their hearts loyal, to give Solomon whole-hearted devotion enabling him to complete the temple; he prayed that to give honour to God would be the enduring characteristic of nation. We pray for own nation, own locality, that loyalty will be found in generations to come.

The passage finishes as "All praised God" - we need to keep that as the focus of our lives - doughnut not hole!! Keep eternal at forefront of our lives, pray for faith of next generation to come. - our permanent, powerful, provider who deserves our praise. We recognise all the good things that have come from him and ask that we can repay that goodness, and pray for faith of next generation to come.

**We come to lift our voices in song: Welcome King of Kings**

Welcome, King of kings, how great is Your name.

You come in majesty forever to reign.



You rule the nations, they shake at the sound of Your name.  
To You is given all power, and You shall reign.  
    Welcome, King of kings, how great is Your name.  
    You come in majesty forever to reign.

Let all creation bow down at the sound of Your name.  
Let every tongue now confess, the Lord God reigns.  
    Welcome, King of kings, how great is Your name.  
    You come in majesty forever to reign.

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**Tim shared the notices for the week, which included a reminder for the Special Church Meeting next Sunday July 3rd, as well as our regular weekly activities, and we closed by saying 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.**