



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on May 7th 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 Jane. Alec is returning from Germany today, having travelled there to be a part of his daughter's wedding, and so our service today is less formal than usual and open for participation by all.

Kate and Paul have kindly offered to lead our music, songs we have sung in the past and will we hope enjoy singing again today. **Our Theme today is Kingship**

Jane welcomed everyone, saying we pray we will hear what the Lord has to say, and then read from Psalm 24.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Saviour.

Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty - he is the King of glory.

We were invited to praise the King of Glory as we sang:

Jesus is King and I will extol him,

give Him the glory, and honour His name.

He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens,

Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,
gone through the curtain and touching the throne.

We have a Priest who is there interceding,
pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,
clothed in His glory and bearing His name;

laying our lives with gladness before Him,
filled with His Spirit, we worship the King.

O Holy One, our hearts do adore You,
thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise.
Angels in light with worship surround Him,
Jesus, our Saviour, forever the same .

Author: Wendy Churchill CCLI SONG # 56558 Copyright© 1982 Authentic Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

Notices were then shared by Tony,

reminding us first of the time of prayer immediately following this service. Ladies Afternoon is this coming Tuesday, at 2.15pm. There will be a Church Lunch next Sunday, and a Church Members Meeting the following week, Sunday May 21st. Tomorrow afternoon is the Coronation Celebration Party, for which 1000 invitations have been distributed. Further offers of help are still appreciated, as is prayer, not least for the weather!

Jane then introduced a time of Praise and worship, as we were invited to join in singing 3 short songs on the theme of Kingship.

Majesty, worship His Majesty: unto Jesus be all glory, honour, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority, flow from His throne unto His own, His anthems raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His Majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

Author: Jack Hayford CCLI SONG #1527 Copyrights© 1981 New Spring (Admin. by / Small Stone Media BV, Holland (Admin. in the UK/ Eire by Song Solutions www.songsolutions.org))CCL No 5664

Jesus, we enthrone you, we proclaim you are king.
Standing here, in the midst of us, we raise you with our praise.
And as we worship build a throne, and as we worship build a throne;
and as we worship build a throne, come Lord Jesus and take your place

Author: Paul Kyle CCLI SONG # 37845 Copyrights© 1980 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

You are the King of glory, you are the Prince of peace,
you're the Lord of heaven and earth, you're the Son of righteousness.
Angels bow down before you, worship and adore, for
you have the words of eternal life, you are Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Hosanna to the Son of David!
Hosanna to the King of kings!
Glory in the highest heaven,
for Jesus the Messiah reigns.**

Author: Mavis Ford CCLI SONG # 114452 Copyrights© 1978 Authentic Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

Graham then shared our Reading: Romans 12: 1-9

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God - this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble service in the body of Christ

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: do not think of yourself more highly

than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love in action

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."

Jane continued that this may be a familiar passage and we should take it to heart. We are Christ's body on earth, we all have a part to play, we are all different and are all needed to make up a whole body. No one person has all the gifts and abilities to be Christ's body on earth. The apostle Paul says we are all baptised in the same spirit, whether male or female, slave or free, Jews or Greeks, and are all valued by God. We wait expectantly for whatever God will say to us this morning.

Jane then introduced a time of sharing, firstly inviting us to listen and watch a video chosen by Shirley; a song written by Keith and Kristyn Getty.

There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace— salvation comes.

**Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings
through em'rald courts and sapphire skies their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honour are
to God our King, who reigns on high forevermore.**

And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne;
we'll honour Him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King; we'll reign with Him

Hear heaven's voices sing;...

Authors: Keith and Kristyn Getty CCLI song # 3994672 Copyrights© 2002 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

Janet shared a testament to God's goodness, reminding us of the song, God is good to me. She gave us a little bit of her history, telling us she was baptised at 13, and engaged at 19! She and Peter were married the following year and her children were born shortly afterwards. Janet is thrilled that both her children are Christians. Janet and Peter were very involved in the Gospel Hall, particularly youth work. Peter developed a brain tumour in 2007, when Janet felt that God was testing them. It's easy to say God is good when all is well but less so in hard times, but she is grateful for the time they had together. **Graham** then shared that he been able to entertain Jehovah's witnesses last week, who have a different bible to us, meaning they do not believe that Christ is God. Graham has a list on his iPad of all the passages in the Bible which state that Jesus is God, which he is prepared to share with anyone who would like to have them in readiness!

Helen then spoke, sharing she had been having a challenging spiritual life, having had timeouts, with many doubts and judgements recently, and had eventually asked God to take the scales from her eyes, which he has done, showing that she should recommit to Christ in this church today, which she did.

Carol (Graham's sister) then shared that she lives in Chesterfield but comes over here quite regularly. She believes God has been speaking to her about mountains (which they do not have in Derbyshire) reminding her, and us, that the children of Israel wanted to stay at the bottom of the mountain, sending Moses up alone. Jesus also went up the mountain constantly with his disciples, praying and at his transfiguration.

Carol believes that God is saying keep climbing to the top of the mountain, Keep on going, you'll find God further up. That's where we will be welcomed into the cloud of his presence.

Tony read Psalm 61 from NIV

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations.

May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him

Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfil my vows day after day.

Shirley: was originally going to share a poem, but that will wait for another day! Listening to Graham, she felt led to encourage us - she feels she is a witness - not an evangelist, and we are all called to be witnesses. She gave an illustration of one of her recent visits to M and S cafe, and following a prayer asking the Lord to encourage her, she had 3 opportunities to do so in one visit!!! We never know when the opportunities will arise, if we ask God for the desire to share.

Paul W: hadn't come prepared to say anything, but has felt led throughout the service to encourage us all to be involved, that we are all part of the body, despite us perhaps being an elderly congregation, but sometimes showing an act of random kindness can be what we are called to share. We all have a part to play in the life of the church and those around us - Covid has inevitably had an effect on our local work, perhaps we need to look for those who wish to engage with us - we need to restore the caring fellowship we were alongside our relationships with those living locally - we need to have the courage to let God work with and through us.

Sheila carefully mounted the stairs, and shared a little of her story. She knows that although she has only been with us for short while, this is the place God wants her to be, and she needs to be more involved in some way. She may need to climb the stairs more often!

Jane brought the time of sharing to a close, giving thanks to all who had spoken, sure that God had been speaking to us all, and she then prayed, thanking God that he is here in each of our lives, and asking that we may we present our bodies as living sacrifices to him, to be used and moved higher into his presence.

We then joined together for **the Lord's Supper led by Jane**, preparing our hearts as we sang:

The King is among us, His Spirit is here:
let's draw near and worship, let songs fill the air.

He looks down upon us, delight in His face,
enjoying His children's love, enthralled by our praise.

For each child is special, accepted and loved;
a love gift from Jesus to His Father above.

And now He is giving his gifts to us all,
for no one is worthless and each one is called.

The Spirit's anointing on all flesh comes down,
and we shall be channels for works like His own.

We come now believing Your promise of power;
for we are Your people and this is Your hour.

Author:Graham Kendrick CCLI SONG # 222980 Copyright © 1981 Thankyou Music(Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd) CCL No 5664

After a technical issue with the microphone was resolved, **Jane read the Words of Institution**, inviting all who love and seek to follow the Lord Jesus to share in the bread and wine.

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.

Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light".

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The apostle Paul tells us of the Institution of the Lord's Supper: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Tony led a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the bread and wine

"Lord we thank you that you are the King of Kings and the Lord of Hosts, and yet you did not consider staying in heaven for us, instead you humbled yourself as a servant and came to earth to die for us on the cross of Calvary. Thank you that you have taken away all our sins

that we can be made new in you, that we know through you we have eternal life. Lord we praise you and we thank you and ask that we will never forget just how much the sacrifice you made for us. Lord we pray that we will be willing to be servants ourselves for you, that we ourselves will not necessarily sacrifice our own lives for you but that we will go out continually serving you, giving our lives totally for you, doing everything to the glory of you because of what you've done for us. Help us to remember always what you have done, and thank you that you restituted this communion Lord that we may never forget, may remember exactly what you have gone through and done for us. In Jesus name. Amen."

Janet and Tony distributed the bread, eaten as it was received, and the wine, retained and drunk together, whilst 'As the deer pants for the water' was played quietly over the PA.

Afterwards Jane prayed:

"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."

Jane invited all to join in saying the Lord's Prayer, with slightly different wording shown on the screen.

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our wrongs, as we have forgiven those who have wronged us.

And lead us not into temptation, but save us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Jean led our Prayers of Intercession

"Heavenly Father we come before you today knowing that you will hear us, help us and guide us. We are under your care and protection. Thank you for your loving kindness that never fails us that you guide our thoughts and actions. Strengthen us and fill us with your peace. We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive Your eternal wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love.

Lord please forgive us our sins, even for the sins we do not realise we commit. We thank you that you love us enough to forgive us and allow us to start afresh each day.

Father we pray for all those who are struggling in their lives. Bring them hope of an end to their sufferings, and a resolution of their difficulties. Show us the best way to help those who suffer, without being intrusive but without simply turning away from their pain either.

We pray for people who are frightened because they are ill. Reassure them that because of the knowledge that you give to us, many diseases can now be cured. Help them to have confidence in those with medical knowledge to diagnose illness and care for the sick. Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain and suffering. We pray especially for those who have no one to help them, that in their loneliness they may know that you are with them.

We remember the example of the Good Samaritan who reached out to someone outside of

his own religion and culture, may this example inspire us to go beyond our own comfort zones and help those in need regardless of them being different to ourselves.

On the occasion of the coronation, we pray for King Charles III and Queen Camilla. As they commit themselves to ongoing lives of service may they lean on you for wisdom, grace, humility and strength. May they sense your presence with them, guiding and moulding them as they seek to fulfil the duties of the monarchy.

In this moment, may we too recommit ourselves to lives of sacrificial service to one another, to the communities to which we are called but above all to You, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and to the realisation of your coming Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

So bless King Charles III and Queen Camilla today and bless us too so that we might be a blessing to others.

Heavenly Father please be with all those who are caught up in conflicts - far too many innocent men, women, and children. Please give them strength to cope with the horrors of war please hold them close to you and help take away their fear. Lord be with the ones who are responsible for starting the wars and coups and plant in their hearts, love, and peace in the hope that they will see that power isn't the most important thing.

We ask you for guidance for our government to be mindful of their promises made to the people and to try and keep in touch with all the people they serve in their different circumstances and also to be with the leaders of our town of Blackburn and for them to treat all citizens the same.

Dear Lord please be with our church. Be with those who are struggling with various problems, illness, bereavement, loneliness, maybe financial hardship. You know us all and our various difficulties much better than we do. Help us to look after each other and to be a witness to our neighbours of your love and may our neighbours come to the party tomorrow and feel welcome and hopefully curious.

We give thanks to you for another beautiful day with our loved ones. As we conduct our day, you are forever in our hearts and thoughts. We ask for your love, guidance, and protection in everything we do. Please watch over those who mean the most to us, and we come before you today with our prayers knowing that you will hear us, help us and guide us in your ways.

We ask so much from You but we do so knowing that with You all things are possible
In the loving name of Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen"

Our final Hymn included an opportunity to bring our gifts and offerings:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

**Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.**

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son...

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son...

Tune: Judas Maccabeus by George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) Words: Author: Edmond Budry (1854-1932) Translator: Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939) CCL Song no ;21837 Words and Music Public domain CCL no 5664

Jane gave an Offering Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your good gifts to us, too many to count, and all the many blessings you give us day by day, and we just offer these as a small token of our appreciation, and ask that you would multiply them and use them for the furtherance of your kingdom. In Jesus name, Amen.

The Grace was then said 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.