



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on October 17th 2021 at 10:45, meeting once more at Bethesda Chapel.**

The lifting of lockdown restrictions has resulted in the decision to meet in person at Bethesda Chapel once again. As everyone is not yet able to return, we still plan to use our YouTube channel to broadcast a recording of the services, and will continue to provide this written service sheet. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we all seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

Trevor plays some rousing hymns on the piano - including "Soldiers of Christ arise", and then "What a friend we have in Jesus", as Alec prepares to lead our service today. Conversation can be heard flowing freely, becoming quieter as Trevor continues with "Come let us sing of a wonderful love."

**We continue our series of Encounters with Jesus - no 6**

**Alec welcomes everyone, as he reads Psalm 100.**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;<sup>[a]</sup>  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Our first song shown on the screen at Bethesda is sung by Bethel Kids Music, and is "This is amazing grace"**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?

Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?

And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,  
that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross.

You laid down Your life that I would be set free,

Oh, Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphans a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King of glory.  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice?  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.  
This is amazing grace.....

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.....

Worthy, worthy, worthy -  
This is amazing grace....

Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham

CCLI SONG #6333821

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-rbmpzoQ5o>

### **Alec leads us in prayer:**

"Loving God, thank you for all that you have done for us, that you gave your son to die for us on the horrible cross and that you rose him again from the dead that we might have forgiveness and life in you. We thank you and praise you our God and Father, and we pray that you will lead us, that you will continue to lead us in this meeting in this place this morning, lead us as we look at your word, lead us as we pray and sing your praises. We give this time and our fellowship to you in Jesus name Amen.

**And now we're going to sing another song by Matt Redman", shown on the screen**

(Alec invites us to stand up, sit down, walk around, embrace the Lord as we sing) - or read if we are at home:

### **Bless the Lord O my soul**

Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul,  
worship His Holy name;  
sing like never before, oh my soul,  
I'll worship Your Holy name.

The sun comes up - it's a new day dawning,  
it's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,  
let me be singing when the evening comes.  
Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul....

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing -  
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.  
Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul.....

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
the end draws near and my time has come,  
still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
ten thousand years and then forevermore.  
Bless the Lord oh my soul, oh my soul....

Written by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin , CCLI Song 6016351  
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSxocnIaNOA>

Our **Prayers for others are led by** Jane Farmer, who begins by reading a prayer printed in the Baptists Together magazine, written by Phil Jump and John Weaver:

"Ever present God, we reach out for you not to escape the troubles and tragedies of this world but to help us make sense of those we can and to find strength to bear those that we can't.

We struggle at times to comprehend the harm that we see capable of doing to one another and we struggle no less to understand why at times, tragedies that are of no one's fault inflict the pain that they do.

Today we pray for all who bear the brunt of that pain; those caught up in the stories that we all know about and those whose troubles are unseen but no less challenge to bear. And we pray for ourselves for we are not untouched by the realities of this world.

And yet we thank you too that amidst the struggles that we face are glimpses of your goodness and grace, moments of immeasurable joy and signs of hope.

May we never be defined by the circumstances that surround us but who we are in you, the hope that is contained in the Gospel that we share and the promise that is ours for eternity.

Through Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen."

"...And now Lord, we bring before you the people, places and circumstances that are on our minds and hearts at this time, knowing that you hear our prayers, no our thoughts and delight to respond to the cries of your people.

We pray for those we know who are grieving. We remember Rosemary and her son, david, and daughter, Lynda, as they have travelled to Ireland for the funeral of david senior today. We thank you for his life and pray that being among family and friends, you would give them the peace and comfort that only your spirit can give.

We also remember the loss of our dear friend, Peggy, thanking you for her long life and the many years of service she gave to the fellowship here. We pray for Gillian and Douglas as they come to terms with the loss of their mother, that you would uphold them, comfort them and enable them in the days and weeks ahead.

On the national level, we pray for the family of Sir David Amessa, who was brutally murdered whilst going about his normal duties this week. Father, we are at a loss as to how anyone could commit such an act. We pray for our country, for wisdom for our leaders, and that men and women would seek your face, stand up for what is right and true and honest, that those who have evil intentions may feel the conviction that their ways are wrong and turn in repentance.

We think of our world where daily we hear of conflict, walls and tragedy in many places. Today, we think especially of Lebanon, where the struggle between those who are standing up for right and justice and those who want to maintain their own own power and control through corruption and violence threatens to bring the country to civil war again. We pray for the many Christians in that country who are working to bring relief to those in need and the knowledge of Jesus, the Prince of peace, to a nation in turmoil. Give them your protection, Lord, and enable them in the tasks you have given them.

We thank you, Father, that through the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus, we can know the peace that passes all understanding in whatever circumstances we find ourselves and that he has indeed already overcome the world and in that, we can rejoice. We ask all our prayers and his precious name. Amen."

Before **Alec** shares our **Notices for this week he reads:**

**Many of you will already be aware that Peggy Simmen, one of our longest standing members, died peacefully this week. We give thanks to God for her long life, and continue to uphold Gillian and Douglas, her daughter and son, in prayer, sharing our love and support.**

**Gillian has asked me to say the funeral service of thanksgiving for Peggy will take place here on Wednesday November 3rd, at 10.45am, prior to the family leaving for a private ceremony at Pleasington Crematorium.**

**Those who wish to join us here for the service are most welcome, and I have been asked to say please do not feel obliged to wear black.**

**The family have requested that, rather than floral tributes, donations be made to Globals: "Make some noise". This supports many small charities in the UK,**

**running projects caring for the disadvantaged in our society, Knowing Peggy, this seemed a very appropriate choice!**

- Refreshments after the service
- Coffee Morning – Tuesdays @ 10-12; Ladies' Bible Study this week
- Fellowship Meeting – Thursday @ 7.30pm (Prayer)
- RISE Praise evening – 19 October @ 7.30pm at Beacon / on Zoom
- Operation Christmas Child

**Becky comes to read a happy letter she has received from Nathaneal; she realises that this has been a difficult week for many, and feels it right to share some positive news , he has finally been offered a permanent post at the Donkey Sanctuary - a 15 hours per week paid post at a place he loves! Thanks be to God!**

**We are encouraged to lift our voices in song with a well-known Hymn  
"When I survey the wondrous Cross"**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of Glory died,  
my richest gain I count as loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ my God:  
the very things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down:  
when did such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all!

Words: Isaac Watts  
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**Our Bible Reading this morning, John 20:1-2 and 10-18, is read by Jean Williams**

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!’

Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

### **Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene**

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying?’

‘They have taken my Lord away,’ she said, ‘and I don’t know where they have put him.’

At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. He asked her, ‘Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?’

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means ‘Teacher’).

Jesus said, ‘Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ‘I have seen the Lord!’ And she told them that he had said these things to her.”

We join together as we are invited to sing (or read) a **Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”** (Alec has chosen this version written by Keith and Kristyn Getty, which has slightly different words from the version familiar to some, although sung to the same tune)

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand,  
and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am;  
for hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me, “Come.”  
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus His family is my own—  
once strangers chasing selfish dreams, now one through grace alone.  
How could I now dishonour the ones that You have loved?  
Beneath the cross of Jesus see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus—the path before the crown—  
we follow in His footsteps where promised hope is found.  
How great the joy before us to be His perfect bride;  
beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives.

Tune St. Christopher  
Songwriters: Keith Getty / Kristyn Getty CCLI SONG #4610917  
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**Alec now shares his Message: SEE THE LORD, SEE THE LIGHT, SEE THE GLORY OF GOD**

**This morning`s message is the sixth in our series ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS.**

As I said two weeks ago it is really an encounter that we individually have with Jesus and that He has with us and also our encounters with Him as a fellowship that are in view. That is really where it`s at this morning too.

We are looking at Maria Magdalena with the sub-title "LAST AT THE CROSS; FIRST AT THE TOMB". That is one thread running through the message.

Our main theme is

"SEE THE LORD; SEE THE LIGHT; SEE THE GLORY OF GOD"

When Jesus meets Maria Magdalena for the first time He doesn`t say or even think well I am not really sure about this one; looks like she is in a real mess. She is a case for the medics and social care workers, I for one don`t want to intervene here. As for getting her in to church life and integrated into our community, well this would be totally out of place, completely inappropriate, let the social workers sought her out first, she doesn`t fit here.

No. Jesus doesn`t even think that. When Jesus encounters Maria Magdalena for the first time He accepts her as she is. He recognises that the poor woman is weighed down with demon possession. The round number 7 expresses the worst possible condition of demonic disorder. Jesus drives all seven demons that are troubling her out. All gone. All changed. Made new.

Whether or not she was actually born or brought up there or not her name comes from the region of Magdala. Magdalenos stands for someone living in Magdala or Migdal, a town which lay about 3 miles from Tiberias on the west side of the Lake of Galilee which is probably to be identified with the village of Tarichaea and its name is derived from the word for watch tower. But whatever we can be certain that Maria Magdalena`s name stems from this place.

As early as Mark 1 we read of Jesus driving out demons in Galligreaves, well Galilee or both. As he started moving around the area his ministry of preaching in the synagogues and of demonic deliverance would possibly have led to many demons going into that area to fight against Him making His ministry all the more necessary and appropriate.

Our main attention, our main focus, maybe even our sole focusing point should be on Jesus, the Lord, and not on any demons whose existence and power we should neither ignore nor exaggerate. Nor should our attention and focus be on Maria Magdalena herself. The whole

history of western civilisation can be seen in the cult that has been built up around her. For many centuries this woman was the most obsessively revered of saints, this woman became the symbol of Christian devotion. Yet she was only fleetingly identified in Scripture, and has thus served as a kind of backdrop onto which a succession of fantasies has been projected.

Who was she really? From the New Testament, we can say that Mary Magdalena was a leading figure amongst those attracted to Jesus. The first references to her are in Mark 16:9 about the lady out of whom He had driven seven demons as well as in Luke 8 vv.1-2 where we read, "After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: (including) Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; "

She must have been willing to let Jesus deal with her many problems; with the many challenges she faced in her life; to let Jesus look at the many problems she had; maybe she knew she was seven times demon-possessed? It must have been her choice to seek Jesus. To that end she may have deliberately gone into the area where He was preaching and throwing out demons, to hear and to see Him.

There are people who come into this building who you may not know who just want to be with Jesus. They can feel His presence here; they know He is here. They come to experience His peace, His love, His joy and His forgiveness. Are you one of these people? Or have you come for another reason?

The Bible speaks of a real battle taking place between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light, between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God and don't we know it. Jesus tells us to turn our lives around for the kingdom of God is here. How did Mary Magdalene understand these words?

When we think of Luke 8 we think of the parable of the sower don't we.

What was the soil of Maria Magdalena's soul upon which these words fell? How did she respond to what Jesus said?

You see an encounter with Jesus is not like hitting the choice buttons when ordering at a restaurant, it is not like being in an internet chat room and deciding whether to begin or extend or end a conversation with a new contact. Yes you have a choice, but there is only really one wise and responsible way to go in making your decision. That is to say yes to Jesus. Saying yes to Jesus means saying yes to the Lordship of Christ in your heart and your life, all of it.

She saw the Lord. She experienced the Lord's healing. She became one of His followers. What about you?

Up until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Mary Magdalene was traditionally described as a prostitute. Some authors associated her with "Miriam Megaddela" or Miriam with the braided locks, named in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century Talmud. This title refers to a woman's hairdresser, which connotes "prostitute", or someone involved in a non-reputable occupation. Mark 16:9 and Luke 8:2 as I said refer to Mary as the one from whom seven demons were expelled, leading possibly many to the conclusion that she was a woman in need of restored dignity. Luke 8:3 also alludes to

her wealth, naming her first among other women who cared for Jesus out of their own resources. One of the women in her friendship group was Johanna, the wife of Herod's steward, and possibly a woman involved in court life. Was Mary Magdalene among those women as well? The text says, "These women were helping to support them out of their own means."

Jesus had met her. She had seen the Lord. He showed her respect and dignity. Jesus is a friend of sinners, happy to be seen with them, already knowing their hearts but nevertheless listening to them, longing for them to accept Him.

The next time we read of Mary in the Bible is as Jesus is dying on the Cross. Matthew writes: (27:55-56): "Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of Zebedee's sons."

Mark writes: (15:40-41) "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

John writes (19:25) "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."

She was not alone with Jesus as he died. Other women were with her. But we can say she was the "last at the Cross".

Would we have been there? Would we have been there this morning?

I may be completely wrong in this, but I do not think anybody amongst us this morning would have been there. We would not have gone to the Cross or not stayed at the Cross; we would have walked away or hidden ourselves for fear. Fear of being identified by the religious or political leaders as a follower of Jesus, fear of the consequences of being found out, fear of losing our own lives, fear for our families and friends.

Meeting with Jesus, encountering Jesus sets us free from fear. There is no fear in love. Remember what we learned with Tim three weeks ago in Isaiah 41:10? God says to you and to me, "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." There is no need to fear in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

My friend Vaughn from Georgia, USA said, "Don't live in fear, but fear God and live."

When the men in one group abandoned Jesus at the hour of danger and felt threats even to life itself, Maria Magdalena was one of the women who stayed with him, even right up to the Crucifixion.

Joseph rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. They saw where he was laid. They were so close to Jesus, so close to their Lord.

How far away from Jesus are we? How close to Jesus are we? As a fellowship? As individual believers? These are really important questions I think.

All through Saturday—through the Jewish Sabbath—all through Saturday, Christ is there in the tomb. No one is visiting; at least, there is no report of anyone visiting. Nobody is, if you like, bringing flowers to place by the grave, as we would perhaps do after the burial of a loved one. But early next morning, we are told here that “while it was still dark,” Mary Magdalene came to the tomb.

There are many things we could talk about here but I will leave them alone and concentrate on this.

Because the amazing thing about Mary Magdalene is that her life was incredibly dark. Her life was so dark; she didn't think she could ever get out of her life-situation until the light of Jesus shone in. I don't know what situation you are in this morning. I don't know what situation you might be in in the coming week. Whatever situation we are in there is only one person who can hold us, there is only one person who can genuinely help us in that situation; there is only one person who can bring us through that situation and that is God in Jesus Christ. There is ultimately nobody else who can help you or me in that situation except the Lord Jesus. And now this lady whose life was once dark but has been flooded with light comes to the tomb under the cover of darkness. And she discovers what she had never expected—neither she nor any of the rest of them had expected. What's that? Well, the stone had been taken away from the tomb. Of course we know that because we are living two thousand years later and many of us have been told the truth of the stone being taken away from the tomb. But Mary didn't know that.

But think about this. Jesus is not there and He is not here to fulfil our expectations in the sense of giving us what we want, in the sense of giving us what we would like, although very often He does. I think we should be very wary, we should be very careful about asking Jesus for something which may not be His Will just our will. In that context four verses from Psalm 106:

“The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold. So he gave them what they asked for, but sent a wasting disease among them.” (Psalm 106:11-13; 15)

Mary Magdalene had been delivered from a very, very dark life and lived for some time very close to our Lord. She expected Him to be in the tomb.

She assumes that somebody has taken Jesus out of the tomb: “They” (whoever “they” are) must “have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do (not) know where they have laid him.”

Her perception of the situation is completely crazy, completely wrong but it is understandable perhaps for she was not around in John 11 as Lazarus was raised from the dead so she was probably not aware of Jesus resurrection power and His promise that He would be raised on the third day. But the initial reaction she gets from Peter and the others was to say, "Well, you must be absolutely crazy. You are out of your mind. You know, something's wrong with you. You are ill." Peter and all the others think she is absolutely crazy because she says I have seen the Lord. Wow. She is deluded. She needs psychotherapeutic help. What do people do when we say we have seen the Lord? They say OK. We can sort that. There is a health centre down the road, we've got someone who can help you there. No Jesus is alive and she keeps pushing and is able to convince and persuade them somehow so that they set out running towards the tomb. Because Mary has seen the Lord, her life is different, she is completely changed. She is not filled with seven demons anymore, Jesus set her free. She followed Him around everywhere, she watched Him die, she goes to the tomb and she knows He is alive. She has the Lord and she has seen the light. And if we have seen the Lord and seen the light it should make a difference to our lives and I think it does. It's fundamental to us isn't it.

She has seen the Lord, she has seen the light and she is about to see the glory of God. These are not delusions. This is reality. This is where my main theme comes in.

If two weeks ago as I said then Jesus' encounter with the woman caught in the act of adultery in John 8 is for me probably the most moving passage in the New Testament because of its ever so clear presentation of the immense love and mercy of God in the face of the rebellion of mankind, the following verse in Ephesians 3 which we looked several weeks ago in our Thursday evening fellowship meeting is for me personally one of the greatest challenges in the New Testament.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, (or expect) according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

The challenge is to live as a church to the glory of God. Does God receive glory through our life and ministry together? According to His power that is at work within us?

As a teenager when I was struggling to get to sleep at night or did not want to separate myself from my bed early in the morning I used to wonder what is wrong; why is it that I cannot see the glory of God in the church, that this is not visible. The problem lay as it basically probably does with all of us in me but where is the glory of God in the church?

It says in the Word: "to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Not eventually, not on Sundays, not occasionally, not well maybe, maybe, not when we have got our strategies correct and our policies in place and everything is sorted and our programmes running properly and the pandemic is over. No: Throughout all generations the glory of God, the Word of God, must be evident in the church of Christ. "For ever and ever Amen" says Paul at the end of Ephesians 3. Think about those two verses. It must trouble you. It must challenge you. I am sure it does. This is the challenge for us.

The following is a parody of part of a well-known Christian hymn. This does not describe where we are but it reminds us where we shouldn't be and shouldn't go and encourages us to stay firm and move on.

Backward, Christian soldiers, fleeing from the fight, with the cross of Jesus nearly out of sight.  
Christ, our rightful Master, stands against the foe, But forward into battle we are loathe to go.

Like a mighty tortoise moves the Church of God; Brothers we are treading where we've always trod.  
We are much divided, many bodies we, having many doctrines, not much charity.

Crowns and thorns may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Jesus hidden does remain.  
Blessings ease and comfort, ask from Christ the King; with our modern thinking, we don't do a thing.

I say again this parody is not in any way to be understood as a negative comment or picture or assessment of life in our church. It is an encouragement to each one of us to obey the Word of God, to follow the Lord and to live together in the power of the Spirit. We have the Cross fixed before our eyes. We move as God leads us. We aim to live as one body, motivated by love and obedience to Jesus Christ. We trust Him together. That is the challenge to live as the church to the glory of God because we have seen Him, we have seen the Lord, we have seen the light and we know the glory of God, we live it out.

Mary was present at the tomb. She was the first person to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection and the first to share the good news.

The angel said to the women, as we have heard many times today already, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus."

Are you afraid? Are you looking for Jesus, Jesus who takes away our fear, Jesus who is our hope of life for now and in the future in Glory?

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

Two weeks ago Jesus said to the woman, Go and sin no more. Did we do that?

Today the angel says, "Go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'" Now I have told you."

So that's what the women including Mary Magdalene did. They did what the angel said. They hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

On their way suddenly Jesus met them. "Hiya" he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. They knew who He is. They had been looking for Him. They could see that He was alive. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. (It is the same message.) Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.

Jesus says to you and to me, if you have seen me; you have seen the light, for I am the light of the world. In me there is no darkness. The light has come into the world; the light has come into our hearts; the light has come into this place and the darkness has never understood it, it has never comprehended it, it can never overcome it and will never extinguish it. Do not fear. Go and tell. You and I.

But let us not forget that when the very disciples of Jesus heard from Mary, from this woman who had lived close to Jesus for years, that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

Nor will not everybody, maybe not even all those who call themselves disciples of Jesus, believe the truth about Him but in our encounters with Jesus as a fellowship of believers may we see the light of God, experience the power of God and above all live to the glory of God. Amen.

**Our final song today is shown on the screen at Bethesda - those at home may wish to read the words aloud or silently: See the light: by Hillsong**

Arise my soul, remember this:

He took my sin and He buried it.

No longer I who live, now Jesus lives in me,  
for I was dead in sin but I woke up to see the light.

No I won't boast but in the cross

that saved my soul, all else is loss.

The grip of fear has no hold on me

So where o death where is your sting?

No longer I who live, now Jesus lives in me,  
for I was dead in sin but I woke up to see the light.

All, all of this for your glory

All, all of this for your glory....

No longer I who live now Jesus lives in me....

Words and Music by Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan  
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CCL No 5664  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lGRLct\\_f6s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lGRLct_f6s)

**We join together for the final Benediction:**

**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.**