



**Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on September 18th 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 being led by Alec, whilst Tim plays the piano for us. It begins, after we watch the notices for the week being displayed on the screen, as Alec welcomes us all, and leads us in a Minute of Silence in remembrance of Queen Elizabeth 11.

We are then invited by Alec to watch a video, shown two weeks ago, of Chris Tomlin singing a new version of Crown him with many crowns, which includes a short refrain after the verses, and then to sing the familiar words to the hymn accompanied by Tim on the piano.

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for me,
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity
Majesty, Lord of all,
let every throne before Him fall.
The King of kings Oh, come adore
our God who reigns forevermore.

Crown Him, the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.
Majesty.....
Forevermore

(All hail, redeemer, hail, for He has died for me
His praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.
All hail, redeemer, hail for He has died for me,
His praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.)
Majesty.....
Majesty....
(forevermore)

Praise God who reigns forevermore (forevermore)
You're the God who reigns forevermore.

Songwriters: Chris Tomlin / Daniel Carson / Matthew James Redman / Daniel Kim / Colby Taylor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xHVtE3BT0c>

Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee
and hail him as your chosen king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing who died and reigns on high;
He died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love, who shows his hands and side
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace his kingdom is at hand;
from pole to pole let warfare cease and Christ rule every land!
A city stands on high, his glory it displays,
and there the nations 'Holy' cry in joyful hymns of praise.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres in majesty sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail, for you have died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail through all eternity!

Words by Matthew Bridges (1800 - 1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823 - 1903) Copyright © Jubilate Hymns Ltd, CCL No 5664

Shirley led our prayers of intercession.

"Dear Lord, we come before you this morning at a significant time in history, the start of a new era, mourning the loss of our beloved Queen Elizabeth and welcoming, albeit with sad hearts, the reign of King Charles III. We come to thank you for blessing us for 70 years with a queen who was steadfast in her calling, and above all loved and served you and her people with every fibre of her being.

We pray too for our King Charles and all the Royal Family as they grieve, in public as tradition demands, with dignity and fortitude. Comfort them dear Father as only you can.

May King Charles, with the support of Camilla, the Queen consort, seek you for wisdom and strength to serve you and your people here in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

We now turn our thoughts to Liz Truss, our new Prime Minister, as she seeks to lead our government in these difficult and troubled times in our nation, where many are struggling to make ends meet and the disruption of working life is affected by different strikes for more pay. In her and their enthusiasm and desire to make a difference, may they honour you and seek your wisdom and help.

Further afield we remember those suffering the floods in Pakistan. Dear Lord come to their aid with workers and food. Ukraine too, even in the midst of conquering an area in this terrible war, is desperately sad at the discovery of many mass graves. God of all comfort, comfort those who mourn.

Now at home we have much to thank you for dear Father. We have enjoyed so many beautiful days; the sunshine lifting our spirits and the colour of flowers and trees in our beautiful world; family and friends we hold dear; our church family -

Movie morning, Tiddlywinks, prayer fellowships, Orbit group, the New Life

International church who worship here, and we pray and thank you in advance for all those in the community who we will meet in the future.

We thank you too dear Lord, for our leadership team, Alec our pastor and the deacons who work so hard on our behalf.

And now a time of quiet as we pray for those who need a special touch from you, remembering all who grieve, especially all the Royal family, all who are unwell and concerned for the health of loved ones.....

And finally as we look to the future with the hope and assurance that only Jesus our precious Lord and Saviour brings, we pray in the words of an old hymn:

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
be there at our working and give us we pray
your bliss in our hearts Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at all labours and give us we pray,
your strength in our hearts Lord at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us we pray,
your love in our hearts Lord, at the end of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us we pray,
your peace in our hearts Lord, at the end of the day. Amen."

Janet was invited to read our Bible passage for today, John 15, 1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Alec introduced our Offering hymn today, Come people of the risen king, which was played by Tim.

Come, people of the risen King, who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth we will lift our eyes to Him,
where steady arms of mercy reach to gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun and those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won, and those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change, and His mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!.....

Come, young and old from every land, men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands, find the riches of His grace.

Over all the world, His people sing, shore to shore we hear them call
the Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all'.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!....

Authors: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend CCLI SONG # 5232617

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Alec led in prayer:

"Father we thank you for all the good gifts that you give to us. Thank you especially for your son who you sent into this world to die for us, to give us new life through his resurrection from the dead. We pray that you would use the gifts that we have brought to you now in the extension of your kingdom, that more will know of your name and come to new life in you, for we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and for his sake. Amen"

then shared the message for today: Remain in me.

"In our last message in the series on the church we reminded ourselves that if we have asked God in Jesus Christ to forgive us for the mess we have made of our lives, if we have made a 180 degree turn-around and are following Him today we are His disciples. He says follow me. We are living and growing as His disciples. That is our God-given role. That is our God-given purpose. That is where you and I fit in. I think we all understand that. I think the first disciples of Jesus had got that far too. But then they seemed somehow to have got stuck. They were fearful, they were anxious, they were worried, they were uncertain.

Jesus says do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Speaking to the disciples He says, "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe."

Something seems to have gone very badly wrong here. Jesus is talking to His disciples who love Him but says "if you loved me". What does He mean? What is He talking about? Is the Lord Jesus Christ confused? Has He got it all wrong? No: of course not. God never ever makes mistakes. He never ever gets anything wrong.

But the disciples' understanding was limited. Maybe they had a kind of boxed-up faith? They knew what sort of a Jesus they had gone after, what kind of a Jesus they wanted, what kind of Jesus they felt would be a real help to them and then they are confronted by the reality of who Jesus truly is. They hadn't really grasped what was going on. They didn't want Jesus to go away. They didn't want Him to die on the Cross. They were frightened but nevertheless more or less happy where they were with staying with their "Jesus". But Jesus had already said as we read in John 13:33, "My children I will be with you only a little longer. Where I am going, you cannot come." The ebullient Peter had asked Him where He was going and the Lord had replied where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you

will later. The proud and self-confident Peter had said, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you; which he would one day do on a cross turned upside down.

The disciples' love was limited. They had not figured Jesus out. They loved Jesus from the heart but not with such clarity of understanding that they were joyful at the thought of His departure.

Jesus says, "I will not speak with you much longer for the prince of this world is coming." You see Judas, who was one of the chosen disciples of Jesus, had decided to betray Him; he had given his life over to the other side. Judas was on his way to betraying Jesus. Satan had got into his heart. Sin gives Satan his foothold in the church of God. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

But Satan's power is limited. Satan could not take Jesus' life away; Jesus gave His life freely. Jesus said the prince of this world has no power over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. The Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of the universe and one with the Father, is prepared to submit Himself to the will of His Father-even if it costs him His life.

It is part of the essential character of disciples that they, that we, are prepared to live in a spirit of submission to God's Word and to His purposes. For freedom Christ has set us free. We use this freedom to choose to become and to remain His servants. Remaining in Christ is the key to fruitfulness.

But I think we have another problem here. For in Matthew's Gospel 10:34-37 we read that Jesus says: "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

When I knew the Lord was calling me to work overseas in church growth ministry I was really very willing but was worried about my parents. What would they think? What would they say? What would they do? So at the annual student missionary conference in Derbyshire I asked for advice from a missionary from Glasgow whom I had very much learned to respect.

He listened carefully and gave me a very straightforward answer. He opened his Bible while we were eating lunch together and said, "you know these verses don't you? Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." First Jesus; second family. Just by the way, my parents were ultimately behind my call to go to Japan.

The content of remaining in Jesus is committing our lives to Him each and every day

knowing He knows the best for us. The context of remaining in Jesus is our everyday life on this earth and beyond. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is not a warmonger, He is a peacemaker; through Him we have peace with God. But let us not allow anything or anyone to compromise our faith and trust in Him. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. Let us look at the fruit of the vine.

The nation of Israel is spoken of as a vineyard. Vines were on the Maccabean coins of the intertestamental period, that is to say the time between the Old and New Testaments representing ethnic Israel.

In the book of the prophet Hosea 10:1 we read: "Israel was once a lush vine, bountiful in grapes. The more lavish the harvest, the more promiscuous the worship. The more money they got, the more they squandered on gods-in-their-own-image." (MSG)

Isaiah 5:7: "I have given you the story of God's people. They are the vineyard that I spoke about. Israel and Judah are his pleasant acreage! He expected them to yield a crop of justice, but found bloodshed instead. He expected righteousness, but the cries of deep oppression met his ears." (TLB)

Jeremiah 2:21: "I planted you like a choice vine from the very best seed. But look what you have become! You are like a rotten, worthless vine."

So if Jesus had come and said "I am the vine" then maybe the reaction would have been something like "Oh no, another one of those religious hypocrites! All talk and no walk."

No. Jesus is genuine. He is the true vine. The light of the world healed the blind man, the bread of life fed thousands of people from virtually nothing, the resurrection and the life brought Lazarus back from the dead. I am the true vine says Jesus and my Father is the gardener, the vinedresser.

God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are not passive, inactive, statuesque stone onlookers in some kind of man-made religious structure. No. Our God is a consuming fire, a living being, from everlasting to everlasting, the all-knowing and all-powerful One. We have to reckon up with Him.

On the night of the Passover meal Jesus had said, "You will never ever drink of the fruit of the vine until you drink it new in the kingdom of heaven." When Jesus said He is the true vine the disciples would have finally, finally registered clearly what He was saying; they would have understood what He meant. Do we? He is the real, the only living Son of God.

Jesus is not talking about some theoretical possibility that He might be betrayed and have to give up His life. He is dealing with an actual, imminent reality. In John 13:30 we read: "As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night." Where there is

darkness, how great is that darkness; but Jesus is the Light of the World, the Light of life. He will never be extinguished; even if He dies, He will be brought back to life. The disciples had now understood where it was at. Judas clearly did not remain in Christ.

There are two sorts of branches on the vine, those that bear fruit and those that sadly don't. These are pictures on the one hand of those who live and remain in Christ and on the other of those who do not. There are very possibly members of both of these groups in every church.

According to John 1:9 the true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world; so everyone is able to see the light if they open their eyes and hearts to it. God is revealed in creation, in Scripture and through Jesus Christ. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. These have then been grafted into the vine. Only those who have been grafted into the vine can remain in it. If we are not grafted into the vine we will not be fruitful.

It is not enough to be in a place where people talk about the vine, where there are fruitful branches, where life in Jesus is modelled and demonstrated. We ourselves need to be in the vine.

Where do we stand? Do we have a living relationship with the living God?

What does this mean for us as a church, as the body of Christ in this place? The branches have their life in the vine; the branches show their unity in the vine; the branches' fruit-bearing capacity and potential is in the vine alone and their growth is a function, is a result of being in the vine.

But we should not forget that Jesus says the Father cuts off every branch in Him that bears no fruit. He says if anyone does not remain in Him he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; that these branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Remaining in Christ is the key to fruitfulness. No branch bears fruit in isolation. Nothing spiritual can be achieved independently of Jesus Christ. Jesus says without me you can do nothing. On the other hand as Paul says to the church in Philippi "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Living in the vine, living and remaining in Christ we can do all things; apart from Christ we can do nothing.

In southern Germany there are as you will well know many vineyards. On my last visit to Germany in late June of this year Sibylle and I took part in an organised walking event in a formerly volcanic area called Kaiserstuhl which in addition to its rich, fertile soils has a climate normally very suited to fruitful production.

Our walking near the vineyards did not lead to us becoming part of the workforce. Looking at the vines growing did not increase the crop. Talking to those who were leading the walk, asking questions and listening to the answers did not lead to the vines becoming more

fruitful; and at the end of the day we left the fruitful vineyard area and went back to our own home.

Do you see where I am coming from? The fruit comes from the vine. Coming close to people who know Jesus, listening to Jesus, talking about Jesus, hearing about Jesus, asking questions about Jesus, even being with others who live in Jesus will at the end of the day, indeed at the end of time, produce nothing of lasting value unless we ourselves are in Jesus. We need to be in the vine and producing fruit. Keeping the Lord Jesus at a safe arms distance is a very, very dangerous thing to do and in the end leads to separation from God and from life for ever which is a very serious consequence indeed.

The Father trims clean every branch that bears fruit so that it will be even more fruitful. Fruitfulness is increased through pruning. If pruning does not take place all kinds of unproductive things will grow and get in the way and may even take over the life of the plant.

There are parasitic plants which take nutrients and water from other plants by extracting them from their host through root-like structures thrust into the stems, branches, and sometimes leaves.

There is a native parasitic plant which causes gardeners to scream and landscape maintenance personnel to pull their hair out. It goes by the common name, love vine. *Cassytha filiformis* is the scientific name and it is commonly found in Central and South Florida, the Caribbean and Central and South America. It is also commonly called Devil's Gut and Witches Hair.

Control in the landscape can be difficult. If the seedlings are detected before or soon after attachment to the host, they are easy to remove by mechanical means. Once established on the host plant, control is difficult.

If they are found in the landscape, you need to cut the vine often to prevent flowering and prune any infested plant parts to remove the parasite. These procedures may eventually suppress or eliminate love vine, but it can be a long process. The quickest and most efficient control is removing the infested plant from the landscape to prevent its spread to other plants.

The love vine has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with genuine love.

Jesus says you are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. While washing the disciples feet Jesus said, "You are clean, though not every one of you."

We are washed, we are clean through the blood of Jesus Christ which washes our sins away and makes us clean. As Paul writes to the church in Rome, "being justified by faith, we have peace with God." But we need to be trimmed. We need to be cut. As we heard two weeks ago we are diamonds in the hand of the Lord, in the crown of the Lord.

But I hear you saying why am I going through these things in my life? Why do I still have flashbacks from the horrible traumatic experiences in my past? What is God doing with me

now? Why did this have to happen again? Will there be no end to the difficulties with which I am being constantly challenged?

God is not offering us push-button solutions. He is working on us and in us; He is transforming us day-by-day more and more into the image of His Son who is not unable to sympathise with our weaknesses but has been tempted in every way as we are yet was without sin. He learned obedience from what He suffered.

Let's be honest. Weeding and pruning are ruthless. Many things need to be thrown away. We need to allow God to sift us and sort us, to cut us and prune us, to discard what we don't need in order to enable us to grow in character as believers, to reflect the light of His glory, to be able to run the race like an athlete aiming to win the prize without heavy weights hindering us and dragging us back; to be able to fight like a soldier unhindered by worldly concerns, for no-one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.

When we resist the painful cut of God's Word which is sharper than any double-edged sword we diminish our potential, we limit our opportunity to show the evidences of Christian character in our lives.

Fruitfulness is evidence of our discipleship. Jesus did not say that we will show ourselves to be His disciples by the gifts that we demonstrate. We show ourselves as His disciples by the grace of God that is seen in our lives. In John 15:8 we read: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." It is about truth, love and obedience to His commands.

When Sibylle and I travelled from Hakodate in Hokkaido in northern Japan back home to the Tokyo area and passed through Aomori prefecture we got a big surprise. The Aomori area is a great apple production area. There were simply miles and miles and miles of apple orchards with probably millions of apples. Each individual apple was covered and protected by a blue bag. Growers bag apples one by one after fruit thinning to protect them from diseases and pests, and to promote colouring and longer storage life as well.

It is called "bagged cultivation" and takes place in June and July. Then from August by removing the individual bags, the apples are exposed to a lot of sunlight and their colour brightens immediately.

The timing of this step is very important since the temperature and the amount of sunlight can ruin the fruit. It requires a sensitive and experienced mind.

Our God is working individually with each one of us and with each one of his churches here on the earth. It goes without saying that He has a sensitive and experienced mind! God's timing is always perfect. As for God, His way is perfect, (2 Samuel 2:31; Psalm 18:30).

In Psalm 17:8 we read "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings."

Mankind produces artificial plastic apples with labels but no life; we can see that they have been manufactured somewhere but with no source of life. We may place them as

decoration on side-tables and dinner tables. We create still-life photos, drawings and paintings which may make apples and grapes and all kinds of fruits look real. But they are at best just good photos, drawings and paintings. They are not real fruit.

God is not making plastic apples out of us but making us fruitful in His service.

So what does it really mean to be fruitful?

Sibylle and I chose the following verse as our commissioning verse before we went to Japan: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." (John 15: 16)

Does that mean that we grew and led churches of 300? 3,000? 30,000? Or even 300,000 believers like the church of our brother Revanth in Hyderabad? No. The biggest church we had, had 225 members and we worked as you might expect in a team. But we were all faithful to the living God who had called us. We will see the fruit of that work when we are with Jesus in Glory.

Fruitfulness has more to do with faithfulness and Christian character than numbers of members, numbers of new believers, internet clicks received and the size of the church budget.

Kuroishi is a city in the prefecture of Aomori in the north of the Japanese island of Honshu which I just mentioned where one missionary lady I know of worked faithfully for at least 30 years. Not one single person came to faith in Jesus through her ministry in that time. But she did not give up. She was fruitful by being faithful.

There was once a guy called Noah who obeyed God, built a boat and together with 7 other people and rather a lot of animals waited and waited and waited to be able to follow God's instructions when the floods had abated. How many people came to faith in the time he was in the boat? But he was fruitful because he obeyed God.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

So I close by imploring you to remain in the true Vine, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even in this digital age children still love to play hide and seek. As God's children may we learn to continue to abide and seek, to remain in the vine and to be fruitful in the service of our King."

before sharing a video of a song: Remain in Me (I am the Vine)

I am the vine, I am the vine, you are the branches; I am the vine,
I am the word, I am the word, life everlasting, I am the word
Remain in Me, as I remain in you. Remain in Me, as I remain in you,

We live for you, we live for you, You are the keeper, we live for you.
We will bear fruit, we will bear fruit, all for your glory, we will bear fruit.
Remain in us, as we remain in you. Remain in us, as we remain in you.

As we go out, as we go out, we proclaim you the son of God.
Let your love, let your word dwell within us, forevermore.
Let your love, let your word dwell within us, forevermore.
Remain in us, as we remain in you. Remain in us, as we remain in you.
Remain in me, as I remain in you. Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Author: Gabriel Wanous, Copyright © 2001 New Spring Publishing/Small Stone Media CCL NO 5664
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07nI8uLwmNo>

Alec then introduced a time of worship and prayer, which included the following songs, beginning with **Majesty**, played by Tim.

Majesty, worship His Majesty: unto Jesus be 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

Alec invited one or two to pray: (which was done, but so quietly it wasn't picked up clearly on the recording) before we sang again, this time shown on the screen:

In the darkness we were waiting without hope, without light,
'til from Heaven you came running, there was mercy in your eyes.
To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the word;
from a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt.
Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one;
God of glory, Majesty, praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation you did not despise the cross,
for even in your suffering you saw to the other side,
knowing this was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake you died.
Praise the Father, praise the Son....

And the morning that you rose all of Heaven held its breath
'til that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe,
for the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored
and the church of Christ was born. then the Spirit lit the flame;
now this gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint
by his blood and in his name in his freedom I am free
for the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me.

Praise the Father, praise the Son.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQl4izxPeNU&list=PLutwgnRUTTvQwYXIHfMws85U5ldrgWmCw&index=6> Authors: Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood CCLI SONG # 7127647 Copyrights @2019 Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Hillsong Music Publishing UK) CCL No 5664

Again, Alec invited one or two to pray:

"Father thank you that the power that brought Jesus back from the dead is alive in us, and one day will bring us back to life everlasting. Amen."

"Thank you Lord that you are the King who never dies. Lord, as we see queues queuing to pass the Queen's coffin we have access to you every minute of every day and we praise you for this. Amen"

Tim played our last hymn:

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing his power and his love!
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies, how tender! How firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might, ineffable Love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall all sing thy praise.

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And finally: 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.

