

North Kent Methodist Circuit Service, 11th October 2020

Deacon Vic Downs, assisted by Phebe Povey and Joyce Woodcraft.

Songs 'There is an everlasting kindness'
'Still'
'Faithful one'

Call to worship

Song. 'Jesus is King'. (Singing the Faith 327)

Prayer of adoration and confession

God of beauty and power ,wonder and light, we come this morning to worship you for who you are

Creator God we praise you for the immensity of your love that bought the universe to birth ,designed and ordered our world and breathed life into humankind.

Saving God we Thank you for the endurance of your love ,that love that came to share our human life that love that died for us on the cross and that triumphed over sin and the grave.

All knowing and all seeing God ,we praise you because there is nothing you are not aware of and nothing that is beyond your comprehension. You do not change you are always there for us

Father we confess that we can praise you and follow you so easily one day only to change the direction of our commitment the next ,and that sometimes our thoughtlessness, selfish words and deeds still nail you to the cross.

Forgive us for our failure to always trust you ,we are only too aware that we are not always the people you meant us to be We long to live strong Christian lives but often resist your power to make us new.

Father ,renew our faith ,tighten our hold on you and may your Holy Spirit transform us into Vibrant channels of your grace .

Forgiving God We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus

Amen

Bible reading Isaiah 64: 1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,

you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to [b] our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Sermon

In later years my wife and I have been to the Pacific area and various countries in Europe, including Russia. We saw beauty, and the volcanic devastation, wealth, good, kind people, people like pickpockets. We saw effects of the war at Aschwitz and the relics of the atrocities. Atrocities still being committed, toward people and the structure of the world .

We hear extremes of need; we see people in denial of the troubles the world is facing both politically and with the climate, worse stoking those troubles. History repeating itself in many ways. Isaiah called on God to sort it. We're supposed to be world stewards, and we can do nothing about its destruction.

People are distancing themselves from Him. **They don't need God!** They have wealth and possessions, many more are hopeless and helpless.

Isaiah cries out to God. Seeks to re-connect with God who creates, and rebuilds people. This is prayer. God always answers prayers; as we need and the people around us need. **Father knows best!**

God had hidden His face from the people. Really means people had turned their backs on God, feeling isolated. They remembered God's activity throughout their national history, but filed it!

Only in time of trouble did they called out to God. Happened again and again. God sorted them out.

We also get it wrong, but through the saving love of Jesus on the cross we can find our direction and salvation. It's the fulfilment of God's promises throughout the scriptures. Even then, we fail at times.

Now as we get anxious and angry with what is going on, many blame God, we need to cry out to Him. **PRAY**. Our individual needs are to be moulded by that fact. I know prayer works.

I love the picture of the potter. With deft hands, throwing the clay, moulding it, changing it. rebuilding it. Sometimes the pot collapses but the craftsman starts again with the clay and works until it is fit for firing and decorating.

Isaiah : 'We're the clay, God the potter. If we allow Him, He can transform us, make us fit for service in the Kingdom. On those occasions when we lose our way, He can remould us as we seek His face again.

Jesus, through His death and resurrection, has power to transform us from people of the world, on the wrong path, to ones who bask in the light of a Saviour. Our hope in this troubled world and beyond relying on God who is always there.

Song. 'Beautiful Lord, wonderful Saviour'. (Songs of fellowship 1184:)

Introduction inviting prayer requests. In the chat line

Prayers of intercession

Heavenly Father we come to you this morning laying our egos aside ,we strip away our pretensions, our delusions, our conflicts and confusions, lord we come as your children ,knowing that you love us a father and only want what is good for us.

Creator God we prayer for our world ,which you so wonderfully made ,a world which now is broken where there is so much pain ,but so little caring so much sorrow, but such little understanding, so much poverty, but so little compassion. We pray for a world where people worship any one and any thing rather than their maker ,where might is right and the weak are crushed.

Where there are divisions of class and culture Of age and gender Of colour and race and the have and have nots .We pray for all those around the world whose lives have been impacted by coronavirus pandemic Dear God the virus did not respect countries or borders ,it spread from place to place and person to person bringing grief fear hardship suffering and isolation. But we know Heavenly Father that your love also does not respect boundaries and borders, it flows from place to place from person to person and brings hope, justice Wholeness and peace.

We pray this morning for those who we know and love who are in special need of your healing touch this morning, and for those whose names appear on the chat screen .

And in a moment of silence we bring them to you

Heavenly Father we pray that they will feel your loving arms around them

Lord we come this morning with our joys and our sadness, our concerns and our worries we know you never promised us a smooth ride or an easy path , but we do know that you promised to tread every step of the way with us Heavenly Father be with us this week and help us to remember that the God whose holiness shook the mountains is the same God who will hold us close when the foundations of our lives are feeling a bit wobbly. Help us to realise all over again our uniqueness in your sight and teach us once again that our value is measured only by the empty cross and the empty tomb. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our lord and saviour Amen.

Song. 'The splendour of the King / How great Thou art'.
(Songs of Fellowship 2065)

Lord's Prayer

Benediction 'The Lord bless you and keep you'