

“Within these walls let no-one be a stranger”

12th July 2020

Call to Worship and Approach to God. *You are invited to light a candle.*

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.**

Psalm 119: 105-106, 111-112

❖ **Hymn 70** (Psalm 106)

1 Give praise and thanks unto the Lord,
for bountiful is he;
his tender mercy doth endure
unto eternity.

2 God's mighty works who can express?
or show forth all his praise?
Blessèd are they that judgment keep,
and justly do always.

3 Remember me, Lord, with that love
which thou to thine dost bear;
with thy salvation, O my God,
to visit me draw near:

4 That I thy chosen's good may see,
and in their joy rejoice;
and may with thine inheritance
triumph with cheerful voice.

5 Blest be Jehovah, Israel's God,
to all eternity:
let all the people say, Amen.
Praise to the Lord give ye.

❖ **Prayer of approach** ending with the Lord's Prayer:
(*say this in whichever language or version you prefer.*)

The Word of God

❖ **Children's address**

❖ **Holy Scripture:** Matthew 13:1-9;18-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen!"
¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

❖ **Music in worship:** *He Shall Be Like a Tree* - Blanche Bowling
Margaret Anne Richards, mezzo-soprano

❖ **Sermon:** *followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

❖ Hymn 231

1. For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God!

❖ Prayers of Intercession

❖ Prayer of dedication

Gracious, generous God,
sower of goodness, justice and peace,
your grace knows no bounds.

**As we receive from you,
so may we give,
sowing seeds of love and life
in the field of your kingdom. Amen.**

❖ Hymn 617

1. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
Nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds -
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.
2. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meanings from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.
3. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth.
And a million million voices
speak with joy the Saviour's name;
every face reflects his image,
never any two the same.
4. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
nothing shall be left to chance.
All that lives will be united
in the everlasting dance.
All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own.

❖ Blessing:

Go in peace to love and to serve God;
**and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us and unite us, now and always. Amen.**