

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

26th July 2020

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

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Psalm 105:1-3

❖ Hymn 127

1. 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.
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
3. 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.
4. 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 distils in the dew and the rain.
5. 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.
6. O measureless might, ineffable love!
While angels delight to hymn thee above!
The humbler creation, in lowlier ways,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise!

❖ **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:** Genesis 6:11-12; 7:7-12

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth.

⁷ And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. ⁸ Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, ⁹ two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. ¹² The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

❖ **Music in worship:** *Sons of Sorrow* - Dale Wood

❖ Sermon (i)

❖ **Holy Scripture:** Genesis 8:14-19; 9:8-16

¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. ¹⁵ Then God said to Noah, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." ¹⁸ So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. ¹⁹ And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹ "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark." ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and

every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³ I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

❖ **Sermon (ii)** *followed by pause for reflection*

Response to God's Word

❖ **Hymn 238**

1. Lord, bring the day to pass
when forest, rock and hill,
the beasts, the birds, the grass,
will know your finished will:
when we attain our destiny
and nature lives in harmony.
2. Forgive our careless use
of water, ore and soil--
the plenty we abuse
supplied by others' toil:
save us from making self our creed,
turn us towards each other's need.
3. Help us, when we release
creation's secret powers,
to harness them for peace--
our children's peace and ours:
teach us the art of mastering
in servant form, like Christ our King.
4. Creation groans, travails,
futile its present plight,
bound till the hour it hails
God's children born of light:
that we may gain our true estate.
Come, Lord: new heavens and earth create.

❖ **Prayers of intercession**

❖ **Prayer of dedication**

Loving Creator God,
we rejoice in the world you have made
and in every gift and blessing;
**we offer ourselves to you,
that we might be responsible stewards
of your gifts, and that the whole earth
and all in it may resound to your glory. Amen,**

❖ **Hymn 269**

1. Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round
of circling planets singing on their way;
guide of the nations from the night profound
into the glory of the perfect day;
rule in our hearts, that we may ever true,
directed, strengthened, and upheld by you.
2. We are your won, the children of your love,
your family with your beloved Son;
come to us, O Holy Spirit, like a dove,
and fill our hearts that we may be as one:
as one with you, our comforter and friend;
as one with him, our way, our life, our end.
3. We would be one in hatred of all wrong,
one in our love of all things kind and fair,
one with the joy that finds a voice in song,
one with the grief that trembles into prayer,
one in the power that sets us free from fear
to follow truth, and so to find you near.

❖ **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.**