

Morning Worship

5th April 2020

Notice of Services through Holy Week

The Preparation

Psalm 61:1-4 Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. I long to dwell in your tent for ever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.**

Song: My Rescuer

There is good news for the captive,
Good news for the shamed,
There is good news for the one who walked away.
There is good news for the doubter,
The one religion failed,
For the good Lord has come to seek and save.

He's our Rescuer!
He's our Rescuer!
We are free from sin forevermore.
Oh how sweet the sound,
Oh how grace abounds,
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer.

He is beauty for the blind man,
Riches for the poor,
He is friendship for the one the world ignores.
He is pasture for the weary,
Rest for those who strive,
Oh the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life.
Yes the good Lord is the way, the truth, the life.

He's our Rescuer!
He's our Rescuer!
We are free from sin forevermore.
Oh how sweet the sound,
Oh how grace abounds,
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer.

So come and be chainless,
Come and be fearless,
Come to the foot of Calvary,
There is redemption for every affliction
Here at the foot of Calvary.

He's our Rescuer!
He's our Rescuer!
We are free from sin forevermore.
Oh how sweet the sound,
Oh how grace abounds,
We will praise the Lord our Rescuer.

*Benjamin Hastings | Bryan Fowler | Rend Collective
© Capitol CMG Amplifier
Used by permission CCLI Licence # 18929*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
let us praise and worship God who has called us
together.
Let us celebrate God's majesty,
and delight in the wonder of God's love.
Together we shall confess our sins
and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read,
we can allow God's word to speak to us,
and ponder its meaning for our lives.
In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness,
we pray for others as well as for ourselves,
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do,
because we believe in the presence among us

of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Confession

Hear these words of scripture.
If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and
strangers to the truth.
If we confess our sins, God is just and may be
trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every
kind of wrong.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Let us in silence remember our need for God's
forgiveness.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to God.
**Almighty and merciful God,
we have sinned against you,
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with all our heart.
We have not loved others
as our Saviour Christ loves us.
We are truly sorry.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent,
forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.
Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

O come, let us sing to the Lord,
let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;

and tell of your salvation from day to day.

We proclaim your glory to the nations,
your praise to the ends of the earth.

The Psalm

Psalm 91

**Glory to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Reading from the Old Testament

Zechariah 9:9-12

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases:
God's mercies never come to an end;**

**They are new every morning:
your faithfulness O Lord is great.**

**You are all that I have:
and therefore I will wait for you.**

**You O Lord are good to those who wait for you:
to all those who seek you.**

**It is good to wait in patience:
for the salvation of the Lord.** (Lam 3:22-26)

**Glory to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Reading from the New Testament

Matthew 21:1-11

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

All Glory, Praise and Honour

All glory, praise and honour,
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel,
great David's greater son;
you ride in lowly triumph,
the Lord's anointed one!

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.

To you before your passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise:

As you received their praises,
accept the prayers we bring,
for you delight in goodness
O good and gracious king!

after Theodulph (c. 750-821) J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

© in this version Jubilate Hymns.

Used with permission. CCLI Licence 18929

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
The Lord bless you.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Unite714 Litany

Lord, we humble ourselves before you today in prayer. Our hearts are saddened by the reports coming from our own nation and around the world of the continued spread and devastation of COVID19. Today, we draw near to your throne of grace in confidence and faith knowing You will hear our prayer. Your Word says that though we were a people who once were in darkness without You, You were merciful to us and called us out of darkness and into your marvellous light.

You made us a royal priesthood, a holy nation. You are a God who is full of mercy, compassion and grace. You said we can receive mercy in our time of need. We need your help. We cry out to you, because our world is in a desperate place. COVID19 has created a dire time of need, but we are standing in faith on the promises of your Word.

Today, we are believing that as you appointed the Old Testament priests to stand in the gap as intercessors to see plagues and disease eradicated, so you will use the Church to intercede and see COVID19 eradicated from the earth.

Therefore, we stand together as your royal priesthood, and take authority over the COVID19 virus. We pray that it will be eradicated; the victims will be healed; the doctors, nurses, scientists, first responders and the vulnerable will be protected.

We ask all these things in your name, Jesus. Amen.

Make your ways known upon earth, O God,
your saving power among all peoples.

Renew your Church in holiness,

and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation,

that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten,

nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace,

and let your glory be over all the earth.

Collect for Times of Trouble

God of the present moment,

God who in Jesus stills the storm

and soothes the frantic heart;

bring hope and courage to us all

as we wait in uncertainty.

Bring hope that you will make us the equal

of whatever lies ahead.

Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,

for your will is health and wholeness;
you are God, and we need you. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

**Almighty and ever living God,
in your tender love towards us
you sent your son to take our nature upon him,
and to suffer death upon the cross;
grant that we may follow the example
of his great humility
and share in his glorious resurrection;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God now and for ever.
Amen.**

Morning Collect

Holy and ever living God,
by your power we are created
and by your love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live each day in love to one another
and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Gifts of the People are acknowledged.

Almighty God;
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.
Amen.

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and
love of God and of his Son, our Saviour, Jesus
Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you
now and remain with you. **Amen.**

Go now to love and serve the Lord.

Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Psalm 91 – Played by Sons of Korah

Holy Week Services

Online services will be published for this coming week,
Holy Week. They will be made available each day for
you to use when it suits you.

Monday – Wednesday and Friday – there will be an
Online Services of the Word focusing on the reactions of
significant people in the gospel to Jesus' death:

Monday: Nicodemus

Tuesday: Mary

Wednesday: Peter

Friday: The Repentant Thief

Thursday: We will provide a **simple Christian
Passover meal liturgy** for you to use at home on
Thursday evening if you wish. The Passover
commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from the
10th plague of Egypt and their freedom from slavery. It
was and is celebrated by families in their homes. It was
about protection from a plague. The Last Supper was a
Passover Celebration where Jesus revealed that he had
fulfilled the Passover and declared the new covenant with
his people.

It is particularly appropriate for us as we are in
lockdown, in separate dwellings and threatened by an
epidemic.

I will post two versions on the website, one for families with children and another for those without children present.

Friday: Tenebrae In addition to the series of Services above there will be an evening Tenebrae (Shadows) service for Friday evening reflecting on the trials and death of Jesus through a series of seven readings accompanying by the extinguishing of candles.

Easter: I will provide an online service for Easter. The Bishop has ruled that there can be no remote participation in Communion, so while I could celebrate communion with Helen and video it – I am not comfortable with presenting it before you when you cannot participate. We will all confine ourselves to a spiritual communion with the Lord as we ask him to be near us and feed us without the sacrament.

Giving

1. Through March we aimed to raise our annual support for Kondo Diocese and Bishop Given. I am pleased to announce that we met our target and we are able to send the full amount promised to Kondo. Well done and thank you to all who gave.

2. This week, I was contacted on Facebook by Meshack. He was a student at Kondo Bible School from 2014-17 and we met several times. I discovered that he is ordained and has been pastoring at Kwamtoro one of the villages where we support a worker. It is a demanding assignment in a Muslim village. In 2015, when I passed through and met the then pastor, there were 7 in the church. Meshack told me there are now 24! He gave me the message for you, “I want to take this opportunity to say thank you very much for your kindness. May God bless you and all People in your church.”

3. Please remember to maintain your giving to St Stephen’s during the lockdown. Thank you for giving by bank transfer. If you have been a cash or envelope giver, would you consider making your offering by bank transfer? It is very easy to set up if you use online banking.