

Welcome

Welcome to the worship of Tyndale Baptist Church, as the 'lockdown' continues and we all gather out of our much-reduced lives to share with each other - Tyndale regulars, occasional visitors, new friends. Welcome to worship - the central activity of the Christian church - not many other activities are possible at the moment, but this is - sometimes it's been called 'work' - certainly it's the engine that makes Christian service possible but most of all it's an encounter with God in Christ that makes faith possible.

The opening song is sung by Mike Garnier -

'Still, my soul, be still' – sung by Mike Garnier

Call to Worship

The murmuring of our hearts, the turmoil of our spirits, the unsteadiness of our lives - with these we come before God in Christ, who is the peace of God, who calms us and promises, to all who follow, rest for our weariness. In his name, and by the power of the Holy Spirit that comes from God himself, we worship.

[O worship the Lord in the Beauty of holiness](#)

Opening Prayer

Lord God in these difficult times we come to you; there's nowhere else to go, and at this time all our human instincts are to stay where we are - but you have travelled far to come to us; in Jesus given up all that it means to be God so as to become all that it means to be one of us - and as those who have answered your call in Christ, we worship; we would go, also, in our hearts and minds, to where you have called us to be, to do what you would have us do; to become more like Christ - that's why we worship; so as to see you for who you are and to praise you for who you are and to thank you for coming to where we are in all our frailty and sinfulness -

Lord, forgive us; we have not always welcomed you and we have not always been ready to go - yet your love is sure - and in quiet trust and in frail faith and hope in that love we wait (silence) - Jesus said to one who came to him, 'your faith has saved you; go in peace' - we take those words to ourselves; thanks be to God.

Now, Lord, as we come to you once more, accept the worship of our hearts and every thought of our minds - and in the mystery of this time make us more like Christ, we pray

Lord's Prayer:

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

Godly Play: Knowing Jesus in making him known

[Bless the Lord O my soul](#)

Matt Redman "

Readings - Ruth Allen

[Matt 28:16-20](#)

[Genesis 17:1-6](#)

The Grace is said:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

Address

Reading some of what's being written about how the world might change after this coronavirus crisis, one of the things discussed frequently is globalisation.

There's no doubt that the world in which we have been living is a 'globalised' world that's become increasingly interconnected for decades, thanks to road, rail and air travel, the internet, 24 hour communication - money flows around the world instantly; people travel freely and far, goods are made in one place, purchased round the world and delivered within days -

A globalised world - & international institutions have followed; the UN, the World Bank, the IMF - & aid organisations & charities & systems of law & regulations - over the sea, human rights, environmental standards - science, medicine and culture - music, films, plays - you name it.

We've been living at the peak time of a process that began way back: since Marco Polo, Vasco Da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan, Gertrude Bell, Captain Cook, Amelia Earhart - hundreds of other men and women

From before, when the Romans came to Britain, from before that, when the Polynesians crossed the Pacific. When Alexander the Great reached the far side of India, he is reputed to have 'wept, for there were no more worlds to conquer' But the truth is, worlds have been explored, discovered & conquered ever since - physical worlds, worlds of learning, technology, culture, language - globalisation has been the life-goal of humanity -

We are a curious, restive, exploring, risk-taking race; our history is the history of journeys, discoveries, encounters of every kind - and it continues -

& one element in all this has been religious faith - *ever since* Abraham went from Arram to Canaan & later received God's promise that he would be the Father of many nations - & *ever since* the risen Jesus told his disciples to 'go to all nations'

A travelling, wandering, *going* spirit has soaked into the very heart of the Christian faith - lots of Christians have literally *gone* as missionaries to the far-flung corners of the earth - thank God we have the faith in this country because of missionary pioneers; missionary endeavour continues, as organisations such as BMS World Mission continue to heed the call in what's known as the Great Commission in Mathew 28

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you

In fact, you could say that there is no kind of Christianity that *doesn't* go; that to know the risen Jesus *is* to go; just as he goes, in his ministry, from Galilee, to Jerusalem, to a cross, so *we* must go - it's in the very way he talks 'follow me'; 'take up your cross' 'as the Father has sent me, so I am sending you'; 'therefore go' -

Never mind 'to know me is to love me'; never mind 'gooey religious feelings' about Jesus - knowing is going...knowing is going - it's who Jesus is, it's who we are..

But there's no doubt that the coronavirus has made us stop; it's confined us to our homes, it's restricted our movements, certainly; and it's also given rise to what could be called an 'antiglobalisation' spirit -

The talk is of ending our dependency on other countries for supplies - everything from PPE to food. The talk is of quarantining travellers. The talk is of monitoring movement, building walls, erecting barriers - New Zealand seems to have been largely successful that way; people are asking, 'the UK is an island nation...why couldn't we stop it coming in?'; in the US they're crowing about stopping flights; they're blaming China - Chinese Americans are feeling nervous; they're being attacked; they're being attacked in the UK as well -

& it begins to look as if one of the casualties of this pandemic, alongside the untold number of tragic casualties, is the very globalisation that our world has built up over centuries. It begins to look as if the future belongs to self-sufficient nations; as if we will travel less & stay home more & - at least for a time - make social distancing not just the norm when we go to the supermarket, but the norm when we look at the world -

Already Brexit had made us nervous of free movement; already they were building walls, along the Mexican border, around Israel, closing borders between Balkan countries, already they were evicting migrants from camps in northern France -

But you can't stop a virus with a wall, or by victimising whole groups of people - and, in the longer view, international, cross-border, globalised things such as the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the International Criminal Court, are going to have to be reinvented -

If ever we are, as a species, to live together as one, varied, curious and multifarious humanity again - these will be hard times for advocates of globalisation, but the globalising spirit - with all its mixed costs and benefits - will have to be set loose again, if ever we are to be free

If ever, I would argue, if we are truly to know Jesus. This isn't politics; it's faith. There's no way of knowing the authentic Jesus of the gospels without going in His name to 'all nations' - with a message of good news of forgiveness and love and truth and peace far more powerful and life-changing and all-pervasive than a virus.

And it won't matter if the 'nation' lives next door or uses the same means of transport as we do, or endures lockdown in another country, that we hear about on a Youtube channel or a Facebook page - thank God that this pandemic hit after such international, equalising things had been invented.

And it won't matter if 'the nation' looks like us or looks different to us, believes the same things or believes different things, shares similar hopes and dreams or different hopes and dreams.

All that matters, for the sake of our humanity, is that the forces that divide, that 'stay', that lock us down into ever more isolated islands for the sake of some kind of security, are vanquished, and that the forces that unite, that 'go', that open us up to each other - even if, for a time, we must socially distance - are set free, for those forces carry the spirit of the gospel; those forces are authentically Christian

And we who would know Jesus in new ways must continue to hear and respond to his call - for the authority over what is fully, truly, human, belongs to him - in heaven and on earth - has been given to Him by God.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you - teaching them to live in love, freedom and forgiveness -

And behold, Jesus will be with us to the end of the age

Prayers

We pray for ourselves, as our restless, moving spirits are constrained and our natural desire to mix with others, to travel and touch and try, is subsumed by a desire to stay safe and make things safe for others.

Lord, help us; though we must stay, help us to run free in our minds to where others are, in need, in loneliness, in distress; keep us open in our hearts to the wide world; make us to know the Jesus whose Spirit blows wherever it likes, to save the world

Lord, **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those we love, as they, too, endure continued isolation; as they miss us; as they face their own fears and anxieties; as they endure loss; as they hope for new things (we pause in quiet)

Lord, help them; help them to know deep in their hearts the reality of all that binds us; keep them open to signs of hopefulness & freedom; make them to know the Jesus who holds their lives in the palm of his hand.

Lord Hear our prayer

We pray for those we don't know, who share our world and draw conclusions about us as we do about them; those who are feeling victimised and live in fear of more than just this virus; those whose community is under attack or opprobrium.

Lord, help them; help them to know that more unites us than divides us; keep them open to the joys and challenges of what makes us different; make them to know the Jesus who carries the image of all that makes us human

Lord Hear our prayer

[Will you come and follow me](#)

Iona

Offering

The horrendous economic cost of this pandemic for individuals and the whole of our society grows clearer by the day. Our natural instinct when this is realised is to hold on to what we have and limit what we give - as individuals, as a nation, as a world, while the Food Banks and the Homeless shelters struggle and the aid organisations dwindle. Yet *offering* - giving, letting go, dying to live, going the extra mile - this is the language of the gospel - this is part of what it means to know Jesus

So we give, in these and all our gifts, for the sake of a peaceable, generous, Kingdom

BPW117 'By Gracious powers' (music played by Sarah Dodds)

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to meet us each new day.

Yet are our hearts by their old foe tormented
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
o give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught to prepare.

And when the cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it gladly, trusting though with trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

If once again, in this mixed world, you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall recall what we have learned through sorrow,
and dedicate our lives to you alone.

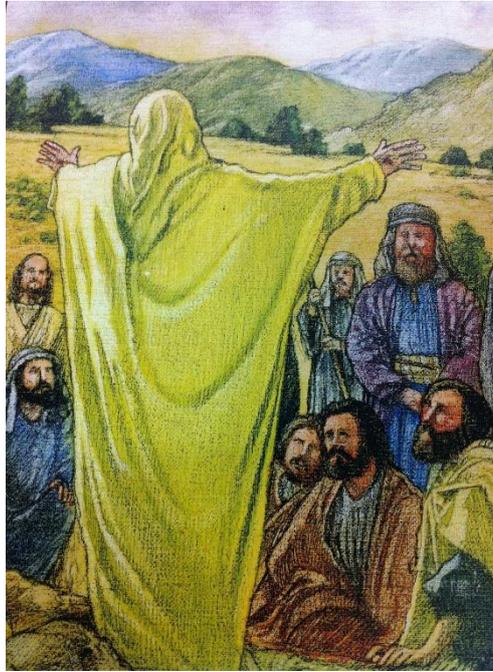
Now as your silence deeply spreads around us,
open our ears to hear your children raise
from all the world, from every nation round us,
to you their universal hymn of praise.

D. Bonhoeffer (1906-45) (written for New Year, 1945)
Tr. F. Pratt Green (b.1903) and Keith Clements (b.1943)

[Blessing](#)

Thank you for being a part of this service; thanks to Ians Holyer & Waddington, Rachels Haig & Molyneux and Ruth Allen, Mike Garnier and Sarah Dodds. I WISH YOU ALL VERY WELL as you live - live by faith - through the coming week

A 'coffee together though apart' time follows, at 11.30 am



Knowing Jesus in a new way – Known in making him known

On this Sunday in the season of Easter we remember how all the disciples gathered in Galilee. They gathered together and went to the mountain to meet Jesus.

He was already there.

It was good to see him, even in this new way, but what were they supposed to do now?

Listen! He was talking again. What was that? “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

What was he talking about? Then he said something that they could understand, but did not want to hear.

“Go everywhere. Tell my story, even this part, to everyone. Show them how to be good disciples. Tell them the story so they can become part of it. Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

This was too far to travel, too much to do. Then in their dismay they heard him say, “I am with you always to the end of the age.” Then he was gone.

What did he mean?

As they walked back south to Jerusalem, they knew they had been followers, now they were to be leaders. They had been sheep, now they were to be shepherds.

They had come home for the last time, now they were to make a home for others.

I wonder where you see yourself in this story?

I wonder what questions you would have wanted to ask Jesus about his words?

I wonder how far you would go to make Jesus known?