

Song: BPW 5 Be still, for the presence of the Lord is in this place

Opening Words In the stillness of the space you inhabit, in this moment, know you are welcomed by your maker. God calls us together to worship, to turn our hearts and minds from earthly things, to the worries and concerns around us, to reach beyond this time and space to eternity. Welcome too by Tyndale Baptist Church to this week's worship gathering, whether we are online or receiving the words in the post, watching now or later, still we are one in God's time and space. So we turn our attention to God's words for us and we create space within for them to settle and bring comfort, challenge, peace, disturbance - to make us think, and open us to new ways and actions. We start by singing of God's faithfulness.

Song: BPW 553 Great is thy faithfulness

Prayer

O God our maker, thank you for being our light and shelter. Thank you that we are never alone for you have promised to be with us. Help us to see you clearly in these moments as we allow you to speak to us again.

We thank you for making yourself known to us in Jesus and for calling us to follow. You give meaning and purpose to our existence. For on the journey of life, you share your life with us and demonstrate your love. You turn us from ourselves and our destructive choices and invite us to be renewed and you give us a vision of a new earth and heaven where we will forever know your love and be found in you.

We confess that we need you. We need your guidance as well as your forgiveness. We need you to reveal our selfishness and turn us outwards to see the needs of others. We need you to show us how to let go of the things which cause harm to ourselves and others.

We need you to be with us when we are lonely or feel isolated.

Thank you for making us part of your household, with people we can turn to who care.

So we offer you our worship, Holy God, gentle friend, loving teacher, generous saviour. You are faithful, kind, compassionate, and you long for us to grow in your likeness.

Pour out your grace upon us and fill us with your spirit as we worship.

Accept our thanks and love as we open our hearts to you. O God our maker. Amen

Song: BPW 39 Father, we adore you

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

Song: Ancient Words

Lynn DeShazo

Reading [Psalm 8](#)

Song: My heart is filled with thankfulness

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Lord, Jesus Christ, you invite us to seek for your Kingdom

TO OPEN OUR HEARTS

TO OPEN OUR MINDS

TO OPEN OUR HANDS

Lord, Jesus Christ, you call us to share your way,
with the shadow of the cross and the light of your presence,

TO REACH OUT OUR HEARTS

TO REACH OUT OUR HANDS

TO REACH OUT OUR MINDS

Reading [Matthew 6: 25-34](#)

Sermon Consider

To be honest, when you are worrying, the last thing you need is someone to come along and say, 'Don't worry!' If we could stop ourselves worrying about our lives and what the future holds then I'm sure that none of us chooses to be in a state of anxiety. It's human to worry! To be concerned. It shows we care and that things matter to us. It demonstrates our involvement and embracing of others and our emotions. Maybe Jesus was talking to himself on that day, aware of all the hopes pinned on him, feeling the weight of expectation and suspicion. We know that Jesus was no stranger to anxiety, just as we also know that Jesus didn't shy away from difficult moments or pain and sorrow. Jesus wept. Jesus sweat drops of blood onto the ground such was his anguish. So when Jesus talks about not worrying, it isn't a simple thing rather he seems to be asking us to look at our worry in a different way. He is in the midst of teaching about the kingdom and reprioritising, reorienting life and at the heart of it is the call to trust God.

Let's consider what Jesus is asking of the crowd that followed him that day onto the hillside around Galilee, leaving behind their nets and their baking and washing and ploughing. Leaving behind their homes, their work, the synagogue, the market square, the fields, the dusty roadside.

Jesus sat on the hillside and looked around him, over the heads of the waiting people, a hush fell, and he speaks of what he sees. The harvest, the seeds sown, away, not far the seashore, the busy lake where storms rise so quickly and without notice. The pigs and the donkeys, the birds of the air. The wheat and the weeds and the wild flowers and grasses. And all the signs of life. But right in front and all around the people themselves waiting for words of life. With their questions, and their worries, with their fears about paying ever changing roman taxes, and the sickness that's invaded their village, with their family responsibilities, their anger about the injustice of occupation, looking for matches for their children.

Jesus looks around and sees people, some who are already his followers, his disciples - friends who share the road with him, who hang on his every word, and manage some of the crowd control, protecting him, looking for where the conflicts are going to arise, knowing they are being watched, worried about what it all means, but on the road with him, for better or worse. Then there are those who have heard a little and want to hear more. There are some who just like a crowd and have followed along. There are some who have questions, others who have needs, the sceptics and spies. People with all the same kinds of complexities that are still around today for those who are followers of Jesus and those who are not yet. May be even those who never will be.

All of them together, no distinction, hear Jesus words to look around and consider what they see.

This 'Consider' seems to be an invitation to look around. Just as the Psalmist looks up at the moon and the stars in the universe, beyond their wildest imaginings, and wonders, is in awe, is humbled by their smallness as well as their own worth. Just what are human beings that you care for them, how can it be that one who made all this we see around us could notice such seemingly insignificant people? Mere creatures.

Yet, if Jesus embodies God amongst us, we learn a lot about the value of being human. Jesus demonstrates the value of each person, with time to stop and wait and touch and value a person's story. Whether it's thieving tax collectors or poverty stricken blind beggars, desperate old women with debilitating bleeding or rich young rulers. Whether its women caught in compromising positions being made an example of or learned teachers looking for answers in the middle of the night, Jesus shows they all matter. Each life. And Jesus gives each of them new vision of what their life can be.

All of these and more are an invitation to see the kingdom of God all around us, beside us, in the eyes of each of our neighbours as well as in the values we adopt in our everyday relationships and work patterns. Jesus 'don't worry' is a call to look through new eyes, God's eyes, at the world around. It's a new vision. Because each person there will have looked and seen the world around them from a different starting place. For all of them, there's a call something personal about it. Take a look at your own life? What is it about being human that you are most challenged by, or gives you the most concerns? In a way, it's the perspective of the Psalmist. Who am I that you are mindful of my worries, my future, the meaning of my life?

And then there is the perspective of the ones there who had already believed in Jesus, signed up so to speak, followed! A communal perspective, a kingdom perspective, a church perspective. The call to disciples of Jesus, then and now, to see the world through Jesus eyes. To see others as Jesus saw them. When we look around us what do we see? Well we see young people who are hurt and angry at the unfairness of their entire school career and their futures being judged not on their ability or hard work,

but on an algorithm. We see young people whose place at university has disappeared or who still haven't been given any results on which to make decisions at one of the biggest junctures in their lives so far.

We see a crisis in mental health amongst young people and adults. We see people who were otherwise active and fully fit disempowered and confined in ways that have isolated and undervalued them.

We see desperate people fleeing from war and persecution and poverty and still being exploited as they seek a secure home, drowning in the attempt off shores of plenty.

We see people cut off from their support groups and people wondering what their long term housing will be like, if they indeed have any.

We see people who are still waiting for operations that they needed months ago.

We see people fearful of sending their children to school and yet also fearful of trying to keep on teaching them at home.

We see an increase in domestic violence and abuse that lockdown has exacerbated and we don't have enough refuge spaces.

We see people longing to be held, longing to see loved ones, longing for...

We see lots of uncertainty and yes worries!

Let's pause for a moment, what do you see around you as a follower of Jesus?

And now we have to look again, not with the eyes of worry, but with the eyes of the kingdom. For we also see people putting themselves out to help others. We see people protesting for change and a more equal society. We see neighbours doing errands for other neighbours. We see so much that is good, that we are part of. I'm reminded of Jesus words, 'when you do it to the least of these, you do it to me.

Don't worry about tomorrow for we will be enough for that when it comes because our heavenly Father knows what we need and who it's for and has good things in store for us, the Children of the living God. Don't worry, we can do this together trusting God.

Today, seek the kingdom. Consider, ponder, wonder, imagine, look beyond, not to worry but to see the new thing God is doing. But don't worry...

Song: Lord, you hear the cry

Geraldine Latty

Prayers

O God our maker, you hear our cry for those who are our neighbours, friends and family. In these confusing, fearful times when the world is in turmoil and we feel vulnerable we turn to you who experienced our vulnerability and powerlessness with us, and ask for a vision of the world you are still making.

We pray for Refugees seeking security and a safe home.

We pray for all those Young People now looking to the future, some with excitement and many with disappointment and some with despair. At this key moment in their lives, let there be understanding and encouragement, opportunities and the help they need to overcome the present challenges they face.

We ask for your guidance for the Officers and Deacons as they work through how to open up the buildings safely and meet all the guidelines and restrictions. Give them wisdom and courage, sensitivity and patience as they work it out. And we ask you to help us to be safe together as we look towards gathering again. And we ask you to keep on showing us how to see our community around and how to help shape its life with your gifts and values.

And help us to continue to see with your eyes new ways, new possibilities, new solutions to old questions and worries, Answers to new questions and worries. We need your inspiration to see your kingdom anew for these days and times.

We pause for a moment to pray for Michael on his 65th birthday today and ask for your blessing on him and Cheryl, Rosie and Andrew. We thank you for all the gifts we receive through Michael's care and ministry, particularly through these trying days when new things are thrust upon us and comfort zones are stretched.

So we ask it all in the name of Jesus Christ, your life amongst us, the way, the truth, the life. Amen

Offering & Prayer

We pause to reflect on the challenges of being God's people for these days and times and what God is asking of us personally. We respond out of our understanding of the goodness and generosity of God towards us, providing for the mission of God in our community and beyond. As partners with God, we ask for wisdom to know how to sustain Tyndale's life as well as resources to fulfil our calling as God's people witnessing to God's love in the world:

Together:

O Lord our God,
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;
and so finding, may love you;
and so loving, may hate those sins
from which you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Anselm

Song: By faith, we see the hand of God

Keith and Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend

Blessing

The Blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit be with you, this day and always.