

Notices

Good Morning, and welcome to Tyndale on this first Sunday of May. Our service today will include the act of Holy Communion.

Our worship is being conducted by our minister Michael Docker. I would like to thank him for leading us and look forward to hearing God's message through his teaching and preaching.

Our Zoom coffee shop will take place as usual on Tuesday morning at 11.00am with the sign in details being able to be obtained through the Tyndale web site.

On Thursday evening at 7.30pm, again on Zoom, we will be holding another of Tyndale's fun evenings when we will be having a quiz based on 1965. Please come along to join in.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place in a couple of weeks at which we will be holding the election for the office of Church Secretary. Julian has received one joint nomination and that is of Denise Lewis and Bruce Lloyd. There will be an online vote on the evening, but if you wish to have a postal ballot please could you contact me.

Rachel our Community Minister seems to be now making steady progress following her surgery and our thoughts remain with her.

Welcome

Welcome once again to the worship service of Tyndale Baptist Church, whether you're here in the church or 'on-line', as the joyful season of Eastertide begins to turn towards the just-as-joyful, but more mysterious period of Ascension and Pentecost – as the events in the life of the Jesus of history begin to give way to the challenges of living with the Christ of faith.

Challenging times – but all times have been challenging for the Christian faith, down through the ages, through wars, famines, pandemics. These challenging times are not exceptional – not for living the life of faith in a world of suffering and death anyway.

Much easier to live without faith - to take life as it comes; to accept what happens as being largely meaningless - someone this week asked me, in the light of the news from India, 'where is God in all this?' I don't think my garbled answer was very good, but then it's not very good, I think, to decide that because of 'all this' – the suffering and loss all around – God is nowhere – there is no God, indeed.

We are here - and you are welcome – because we believe that God is here, in the midst of 'all this' – yes, it's a challenge to say so and to live in that truth, but that's the whole point, really, for anyone who lives by faith – living by faith isn't about giving easy answers or escaping into religious fantasy – faith in the risen Christ is grounded in this hard world – and that faith begins with worship..

'Let your restless hearts be still'

Iona Community sung by Eileen Pratt

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are restless until we find our rest in you, Lord; and so we are here, with our restless, seeking, expectant hearts, we come at your call; to meet with you by faith in the risen Christ – and in his name, we worship

BPW 248 ['Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain'](#)

Opening Prayer

Lord God we come with joyful hearts to worship you; and with trembling hearts to wait for you, and with fearful hearts at the thought of you, and with hopeful hearts – for we have heard that Christ is alive – we worship you for power beyond comprehension and peace beyond understanding and love beyond our deserving – all through the glorious news that Christ is alive. We worship you for overturning the grinding ways of the world; for renewing the face of the earth, for putting love where hate grows and life where death rules. We worship you for a Spirit that lifts our spirits, that is endless and free, rich and true; we worship you – we have followed Jesus and we have received the glad news that Christ lives for ever – Lord God, receive our worship, we pray, in Christ's name. We pray the prayer Jesus taught to those who follow

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

Readings

[Psalm 22.25-31](#)

[John 15.1-17](#)

Sermon

Lord, we give you this time; may what is spoken ring with truth, may what is heard & understood be touched by your spirit & may what is decided lead us all on towards your Kingdom..Amen

My Dad had a saying (he had many!) that used to irritate me *to bits*. I can't be the only son who's been irritated by their Father; I know, also, how as a father I can irritate my children!

Anyway that's another story..back to my Dad, rather, back to his saying.

I remember him saying it as we settled down in the back seat of the car for the journey home at the end of every holiday – and on lots of other occasions as well – a day trip, or a visit 'every good thing must come to an end'

I thought about it as the joyful season of Easter moves towards its climax; the Ascension first, then Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit.

But it's different, of course. My irritation was because he didn't need to say it, I was already feeling a bit sad as a holiday ended & I contemplated returning home, going back to school – that was never a prospect that filled me with good feelings, I can tell you!

But as the joyful season of Easter moves towards its climax – no sadness; no ending..the joyful season of Easter is a 'good thing' of course, but it doesn't 'end'; rather, it changes –

the joy & mystery of the risen Christ, with all those encounters – Mary; Emmaus, doubting Thomas – all that ends, of course – & others – 500 people at one time, according to Paul

But, really, the joyful season of Easter doesn't end..it changes.. That's our experience, isn't it? Never mind my Dad, things don't end, usually, they change.

'Let's get Brexit done' they said. Lots of folk seem to have thought that would be an end to it – but it's not, is it? Our relationship with Europe hasn't ended – it's changed –

Let's not get into a debate about if it's changed for the better or otherwise: I have my view...

All those tragic deaths due to Covid; the desperation in India – I think of other losses in recent years - many folk who are no longer here (Tyndale) –

But our relationship with those who've gone hasn't ended (not when those people meant so much to us), it's changed; the love's still there; their legacy; we still hold them in our hearts

In February the govt in India was *trumpeting* its triumph over the pandemic -

The party unequivocally hails its leadership for introducing India to the world as a proud and victorious nation in the fight against Covid."

But the fight hadn't ended, had it? It had changed – a variant now running out of control; hospitals overrun, a shortage of oxygen - As we enjoy more freedoms going forward and a vaccine-induced bounce in our fortunes -still, the smart money says, we must be vigilant – this hasn't ended, this pandemic

But it's changed – the effects of it have changed; our relationship with it has changed; our way of life has changed, is changing, will go on changing, for years to come..

The joyful season of Easter isn't ending; but it's changing – our relationship with the risen Christ isn't ending;

But neither is it frozen into a constant re-run of the encounters & a fantastical attempt to reproduce them, as if we in the 21st C could experience just what someone in the 1st C experienced when they encountered the risen Christ – no, it's not ending, but it's changing..

So we come to that powerful, poignant part of John's gospel, where Jesus, in John's portrayal, talks with his disciples at the last supper just before he goes to his death.

It works in the season of Easter as well. Perhaps John intended that it *should* work, both as an account of the events before the crucifixion, and as a word to any *after* the resurrection –

Jesus preparing his disciples before being lifted up onto the Cross *and* the risen Christ preparing *us* before being lifted up at the ascension and before the coming of the Holy Spirit

Jesus preparing his disciples for life in the world after he had gone from the world – and the risen Jesus preparing his followers for life in the world after he had 'gone from the world' –

That's the glorious mystery of all this. Jesus *isn't* here, such that we can see him, but Jesus *is* here as our hearts are warmed, as the Holy Spirit comes, as we hear his words & *do them*

A surprise party is laid on by friends of someone they love to bits. Everything's prepared, but at the last minute a message comes through that the guest can't be brought..

What to do? The food's all prepared; everyone's there, waiting, excited, ready...only one thing for it – to go ahead without her.

So they do – everyone talks about how much she would have enjoyed it if she was there. They reminisce about what she would have said, and about those times when they were with her – & on and on it goes, the party –

And though she is not there, it is *as if she is there*; she's the centre of every conversation; the 'unseen guest' if you like; there's a space in the party that only she could fill; a 'hole', shaped exactly like her; a spirit that could only be because of her –

The party's not ended, but it's changed - and although she is not there – well, really, you know how this goes, she *is* there.. So let it be heard, or at least felt, by every bedside, in every hospital, in India, around the world, wherever there is loss, wherever there is the sense of an ending... wherever there is the question 'where is God?' – He *is* here, in Christ..
Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ... As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love...
'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.... You did not choose me but I chose you... I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.
Now, you know what Jesus is like; what he would say if he was here – and, to be like him, what he would expect you to do - (table);

Offering prayer

Lord we come to you once more, in this joyful season in the midst of a tragic, grieving world; we come to you even as we hear the terrible news from India – and we pray (we can do little else *but* pray) for the people of that country – some known to us – and of many other places - we pray for them, though it's hard, even, to pray, that even in the midst of such terrible suffering they may be aware of what we, in our worship, proclaim, that you have not left us; that nothing is ended, but that everything is changed, because of the joyful season of Easter – and with thankful hearts we give of ourselves in these and all our gifts and in the bread and wine – and in the giving, and in the continuing to live by faith, we look to the transformation – the *changing* – of the things of earth into the things of heaven

The Grace

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

CG 107 'Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit'

Tyndale Virtual Singers

Communion

The table of the Lord is spread. Here we remember the sacrifice of Christ for the sin of the world.. Here we encounter the risen Lord, feed on him by faith, and discover together the body of Christ on earth in the Church. And here we look forward in the light of His promise to return. Then those who know him a little and long to know him more, those who are seeking him and who are weary of their sin and doubt, are invited to come and share the feast.

Confession

Lord God, here we confess before you what we have done that has gone against your will, and what we have not done that has prevented the doing of your will in us and in the world.

When we have done what is right in our own eyes, and not done what is right for fear of what others might say, forgive us.

When we have criticised others for their actions and condemned others for what we think they are, forgive us.

When we have too readily overlooked the wrongs of the powerful for the sake of our own comfort, and stood by while the needs of the weak have been sacrificed to the desires of the strong, forgive us. We wait on your word..

The words of Jesus: 'Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing'

We hear the words and, trusting that you know our hearts, we thank you, Father, for the promise of your gracious forgiveness and we turn again from our way to walk in the way of Christ, so that our lives might truly reflect the things that we believe. Amen

Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you; the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, take, eat, this is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me. IN the same way after supper he took the cup saying this cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it in memory of me – for whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts,

we lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is not only right, it is our duty & our joy at all times & in all places to give you thanks & praise, Holy Father, almighty & eternal God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord.. Therefore with angels & archangels & with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying

Holy Holy Holy, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord. Hosanna in the highest!

God our Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on all your people, that we may have faith, & upon these gifts of bread & wine & this eating & drinking, that this may be for us the mystery of the body and blood of our risen Lord – so that we may receive Christ to ourselves once again, for the strengthening of our faith, the assuring of our hope, and the deepening of our love.

Responses

Here is bread

Broken for the world's brokenness

Here is wine

Poured out for the world's suffering

How shall we eat?

In the season of Easter we come with burning hearts,

To know that Christ is risen

In the breaking of the bread

How shall we drink?

In the season of Easter we come with thirsty spirits,

To know that Christ is risen

In the drinking of new wine.

The risen Christ is here for healing and wholeness **We take him to ourselves with grateful hearts.**

Bread & Wine

['We will meet'](#)

John Bell

Prayer after communion

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have touched holy things:

May ears that have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute, and ready to listen for every whisper of peace and reconciliation in the world

May tongues that would sing your praise be free from deceit, and ready to speak only the truth in love

May eyes that have witnessed the drama of salvation in broken bread and poured out wine now shine with hope and look for signs of your Kingdom

May bodies that have been fed with your body be refreshed by your Spirit and ready to work for your Kingdom in the world.

May lives that today have been filled with the risen life of Christ be ready to live by faith in the coming of your Kingdom, Amen.

'Alleluia! Raise the gospel'

Tyndale Virtual Singers

Benediction

The blessing of God almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always, Amen

Thanks to everyone who has made today's service possible – Ian recording and processing; last week's technical issues were the first ones that have happened in over a year, during which time Ian has applied great expertise and diligence to producing Tyndale's weekly services; he has sorted the recent computer glitch so that probably his work won't be noticed again for a long time...an especial thankyou, Ian - Nick & Tina printing and posting; Ruth and Dave reading; Rachel sorting music and playing, Tyndale's singers singing, virtually, Eileen singing live and the Stewarding Team who have overseen all the practical arrangements and will clean up after everyone has left– thank you one and all for taking part. Thanks also to Ian Waddington for maintaining the website..

In the continuing joyful season of Eastertide in a challenging, changing world, as we live by faith we will continue to support and pray for one another until we meet again..

[Eternal Source of Light Divine](#)

G.F.Handel arr. Christian Forshaw