

### Notices for 13th June

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our worship here at Tyndale. If you are watching from home or indeed here with us, a regular attendee, or a visitor, we hope you will feel at home with us as we worship together.

This morning our service is being taken by our minister Michael Docker and we look forward to him leading us in our worship today.

On Tuesday at 11am, our usual zoom coffee shop will take place. Do join us if you are free, to catch up with one another, the joining details can be found on the website.

On Thursday evening we have our last scheduled zoom fun evening. This starts at 7.30 and again the log in details can be found on the website. This week the evening will be charades, with a well known member of our congregation doing all the acting. So do join us for what is always a very fun time together.

We have our zoom coffee shop after the service this morning at 11.30 for those that are able to make it.

Details again can be obtained from the website.

As we enter another week, we continue to think of Rachel our community minister as she recuperates after surgery. Thank you.

### Welcome

Welcome once again to the worship of Tyndale Baptist Church; here in church, on-line or, if you're following the script. We worship on the cusp of a return to something like normality –

But whatever this new 'normal' will be, it will, like the previous 'normal' stand in contrast to the things of God's Kingdom. In a sense, what we witness to here has always been 'extra-normal' – beyond the things of earth, where God's reign is hardly seen, to God's Kingdom, where his reign is complete, and eternal, and recognised and acknowledged by all and everyone - and as there, worship flows as God's presence is known, so here, as God's presence is promised and we acknowledge it, we worship.

**BPW 5 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'**

Tyndale singers

### Call to Worship

We are called here by God who is the source of all life; and we gather in the name of his Son who is our life; and we worship, by the power of His Spirit.

**BPW 521 ['Be thou my vision'](#)**

### 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 imagining; peace beyond understanding; 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 pure and true; we worship you –

We who follow Jesus believe the glad news that Christ lives for ever – Lord God, receive our worship, we pray, in Christ's name and allow us to stand in your pure presence

### 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

**BPW 633 'Made in God's image'**

Tyndale virtual singing group

**Old Testament Reading : [1 Samuel 17.1a; 2-49](#)**

**['By faith, we see the hand of God'](#)**

**New Testament Reading : [2 Corinthians 6.1-10](#)**

**['Oceans'](#)** (Where Feet May Fail)

## Sermon

*Lord we give you this time; may speech be true; may hearing and understanding be Spirit-breathed & may deciding lead to action that mends the world*

‘Only a boy named David, only a rippling brook,  
only a boy named David, but five little stones he took.

And one little stone went in the sling, and the sling went round and round and round and round and round and round, and round and round and round.

And one little stone went up in the air, and the giant came tumbling down’

Remember the Sunday School song? - Boy David, up against the *monstrous* giant Goliath

This pandemic has been *monstrous* - a vast, world-wide attack on the whole business of human flourishing.

Oh, lots of things are – wars, of course, natural disasters, illnesses..

Many things we do are monstrous; some things that happen to us are monstrous as well,

Lots of things aren’t, of course, they’re the normal ups & downs of life, but sometimes, like with this pandemic, something comes along that is truly monstrous –

out of all proportion: damage, destruction, the upending of what’s normal – almost as if it offends against the very idea of what it means to be human.

Like the great monster films (King Kong, Jurassic Park, Alien.) *monsters*, out of all proportion, and in their wake we are puny & small. That’s the David and Goliath story –

‘Sunday School’ shapes the way we look at most of the OT & the lessons are mostly Sunday School lessons – ‘it doesn’t matter how small your faith is, or how big the enemy is, trust in God’ & that’s fair enough, as far as it goes –

But we’ve grown up, now; we need something more now; we need to know what to make of all this stuff – the David & Goliath story belongs to that violent, embarrassing part of the OT:

quick, let’s get to Jesus, to a faith based on sheep & loaves & fishes; let’s forget all the beheadings, battles, swords and vengeance -

Religion & violence - gets a bad press, doesn’t it? ‘Religion is responsible for most of the world’s wars’; ‘ideas like Holy War have no place in our world’...Northern Ireland, 9/11, London Bridge – it was all because of religion wasn’t it? Fanaticism, terrorism

How can the OT have any place in today’s world? How can stories like David and Goliath?

Well, maybe in a grown-up world, they do have a place. Maybe part of the problem is that we think it’s all down to science, politics, logic and sweet reasonable behaviour..Maybe, when it comes down to the pandemic, we hope that with a few more vaccinations, a bit more common sense, some test-and-trace and some political will-power

It’ll all be OK in the end – the ‘new normal’ will emerge, and apart from a bit less commuting and one or two longer waiting lists, ‘everything’s gonna be alright’.

Only...it’s monstrous, the pandemic, like many of the things ranged against human flourishing, it’s out of proportion; it’s too cruel, too destructive, too evil

Like the Philistines in the Bible, like Goliath – monstrous, a vast army & a huge warrior, threatening the very sovereignty of the army of the living God;

Like the snake in the Garden of Eden, threatening the very dominion of the human creatures; like Pharaoh in Egypt, a vast power ranged against the oppressed people of Israel

And Moses, nervously, says ‘let my people go!’. And Adam & Eve are undone by the snake

And all through, from creation, the image of God is located in the human being, who is called to have dominion over the whole of creation; who is frail & puny compared to the forces ranged against him & her – the wily snake or the vast establishment of Egypt, or the monstrous forces of the Philistines and Goliath –

Talk about ‘here be dragons’! – ‘here be monsters’ – and they won’t be defeated by stronger armies or greater forces, they’ll be defeated by – Moses speaking nervously, (or they’ll seemingly win the day when Adam & Eve are banished from the garden), or they’ll be defeated by David and his shepherd’s sling and stone and trust in God.

God.

It was ever thus – it will always be like this. When the monstrous forces in our world grow out of all proportion & we are tempted to go against them with power & leave the hindmost to their fate.... the gospel call will sound again –

*not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord.* It's the upside-down truth that mends the world - Paul:

*As servants of God...we are treated as impostors, & yet are true; as unknown, & yet are well known; as dying, & see—we are alive; as punished, & yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, & yet possessing everything.*

It echoes through the lives of a Bonhoeffer, a Cavell, a Romero & all those scientists, artists, teachers, medics, politicians, home-makers & employees who trust in God in the world

It's the *David and Goliath paradox* – a grown-up faith for a world come-of-age that's full of childish, greedy, power-mongering dreams;

Have you seen that glass-bottomed swimming pool between two luxury tower-blocks in London, where the rich can swim above the poverty-stricken streets? That's monstrous, really - or, rather, the forces that give rise to such things are monstrous:

Like the pandemic is monstrous; it threatens the dominion of the human creature who is made in the image of God, which is, really, *God's* dominion – because it is a terrible disease, yes, but also because it multiplies injustice, exacerbates greed & leads us to huddle together for security & put up barriers so that we fail to live as human beings made in God's image.

But still, in such a world, the gospel is about freedom, service, giving & sacrifice - the very things of God's Kingdom; & if we will live for such things against the monstrous forces of the world, like David against the monster Goliath, maybe then we will be able to echo Paul –

Now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

#### **Offering prayer**

Lord we come to you, asking you to forgive us for giving in to the temptations of greed and power-mongering, while the monstrous things in our world destroy much that is good and mostly the most vulnerable; and as we seek your forgiveness so we would give, of these and all our gifts, so that, in our world, service, and simplicity and sacrifice, might win the day.

#### **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 131 ['Through the Love of God our Saviour'](#)**

#### **Prayers**

Many of us were moved & inspired by David's presentation on Wednesday about the situation in Hong Kong & the way Christians have responded to it – at great personal risk.

At one point, as protestors & police lined up against each other & as tensions built, Christians - pastors & others - formed a line of witness ('with-ness') in between, to stand for peace – 'shalom' - wholeness, where so much was broken. Their cry, 'Lord, give us peace' forms part of our response today as we pray

Lord, we know that monstrous things are happening in our world. In Syria, Israel & Palestine, Afghanistan & elsewhere, bombs & missiles still rein down & sometimes whole families are killed or maimed & grief & misery mark many lives; in places such as Hong Kong, Belarus, Xinjiang province, Myanmar & elsewhere protests are met with violence & everyone lives in fear of arrest; in exclusive marinas & penthouses in Europe, America, Dubai & elsewhere, vast wealth plays while poverty stalks the earth & the divine image in the human is distorted.

That such monsters might fall at the sight of God's Kingdom

**Lord give us peace**

We know that monstrous things grow out of this pandemic – hospitals across the world groan under the strain of the sick and dying; vaccines merely trickle down to poor and remote areas; barriers and borders rise and resources are hoarded by those who have means, while the poor, as so often, go to the wall

That such monsters might fall at the sight of God's Kingdom

**Lord give us peace**

We know that in many places monstrous injustices, sufferings and forces of destruction *are* being slain; scientists are discovering new treatments; politicians and administrators are rolling them out; artists are making new music, images and words to inspire and uplift; folk are running and swimming and walking *miles* to raise much-needed funds; folk are loving one another and caring for their neighbours

As each monster falls at the sight of God's Kingdom

**Lord give us peace**

And cause us to rejoice, to give thanks, to love one another, to weep with those who weep, to stand alongside and between; to believe and serve the cause of your Kingdom

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**BPW 559** ['Love divine'](#)

### **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; Nick & Tina printing and posting; Ian & Alison reading; Rachel sorting music and playing with Ali and Dave, Tyndale singers singing 'live' and virtually; the Stewarding Team preparing, watching over us, and cleaning up after – thanks everyone for taking part.

We will look to respond to any announcement about further easing of restrictions in coming days, and hope and pray that positive news will spread – for those running businesses and involved in travel especially - and we will continue to look out for one another – and to serve the world – till we meet again.

**Music played by Rachel, Ali and Dave**