

## Notices

Welcome to Tyndale on this third Sunday of June. If you are a visitor with us, I extend a special warm welcome and hope you feel at home with us.

Our worship is being conducted by our minister Michael Docker. I would like to thank him for leading us and look for a greater understanding of God's message for us.

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 Wednesday evening at 7.30, again on Zoom, there will be a discussion led by Michael, entitled 'The student experience during lockdown'. Please join us if you are free.

Thank you.

## Welcome

Welcome once again to the worship of Tyndale Baptist Church – to the church or to the live feed, to the recording or script – you're very welcome as we continue through this summer mix of freedom & restriction for all of us, to explore the meaning of our faith – & to worship..

### CG48 'Santo, santo, santo'

#### Call to Worship

Holy, holy, holy – the very nature of God who call us here – what an extraordinary thing that is; that the God of the universe should call *us* – but that is what we believe, we who follow Christ and seek to catch His Spirit; we who have heard the call, and who gather, and who, in Jesus' name, worship God

### BPW68 'Praise to the Lord'

#### Opening Prayer

God of love we come to sing your praises this day, and to rejoice in all that we have received from your hand – for the beautiful world, for the riches of daily life, for families and friends, for challenges and opportunities – so many things, ordinary and extraordinary, all of them ours not as a right or as something we've achieved, but as a gift from you - we worship you for you are a God who gives – who shows us His love by giving, and most of all by giving us Jesus; Lord we worship you for him whose whole life was filled with giving to others, and whose life was given for us all – Lord, accept our worship – in a small way here we seek to give of ourselves, as individuals and together, and so by faith to show the world what it means to give, as we receive, from your gracious and generous hand.

#### 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 & the glory are yours, now & forever. Amen

### BPW84 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind'

#### Old Testament Reading

[1 Samuel 15.34 - 16.13](#)

### CG85 'May your love be upon us, O Lord'

Tyndale virtual singing group

#### New Testament Reading

[2 Corinthians 5.11-21](#)

## 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*

*“the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

The details of the story about Samuel choosing David needn't concern us much today – just a reminder that it all takes place in that strange, ancient violent world that repels many –

So that often, as we heard last week, people dismiss religion - 'it's all about violence'

But let's look past all that for now – and accept that at heart this is all about God's ancient promise making its way:

The promise of Gd to Abraham – *“I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven”*

The promise making its way. That's what lies behind all our religion isn't it? It's an irrational idea today – that the God of the universe should concern himself with this human creature on this tiny planet.

But honestly it's an irrational world; a world where in Saudi Arabia last week, a 17 year old boy was executed for the offence of taking a photo during a protest when he was 14.

A world in which a virus can decimate the lives of huge numbers of people – in which everyone from politicians to police to public broadcasters can dissemble –

where corruption runs rife, conspiracy theories abound & statements often hide the truth.

Oh yes, today we *feel* as if we live in a rational, sensible kind of world, filled with well-meaning sensible people and policies.

But underneath, just out of sight, when a disease strikes or a regime rides roughshod or an institution mistreats the very people it's supposed to serve -

You realise: there's a deep vein of irrationality in our world; people often act out of self-interest; injustices run deep & destruction reins down & everywhere innocence is corrupted

In many ways today's world is little changed from Samuel's world – except the weapons are more deadly and the rulers use more sophisticated tools.

Yet still, in this world, the ancient promise makes its way. By Samuel's day it had made it from Egypt and soon enough it would rally the prophets and strengthen the Exiles in Babylon and then almost disappear, until it re-emerged in the ministry of Jesus then almost get quenched on the Cross before leaping free when Jesus was raised & reaching beyond Israel as Paul took it to the Gentiles

and down all the centuries it has made its way, in the hearts of God's faithful people

And today? It all comes down to us, I think, if we will heed the ancient call and follow in the way of the Lord, then the promise will continue to make its way

And all along there are one or two fairly simple ideas that make the promise true; counter-intuitive ideas; going against the wisdom of the world at every turn –

And if, often, those ideas are framed by a story be sure they're not *stuck* in the story, and don't *depend* on the story - Like this idea -

*the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”* - Quite simple; like all the best ideas, but quite profound also

Samuel is instructed to look for a new King among the sons of Jesse

Eliab - Abinadab - Shammah - 7 more - “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” – at last, “There remains yet the youngest, but..” - “anoint him; for this is the one.” And the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Boy David against all the odds –*the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*”

That’s all, see. The ancient promise is shaped by such ideas – against all the strength and greed and power-mongering of the world - *the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*”

That’s an idea for our world, as well; where racism still stalks; where whole races are destroyed – the Uyghurs, the Rohingya; where terrorists have long beards and asylum seekers are damp and dishevelled and women play with babies on the beach while their hubbies in suits talk about important things (did you see the G7? Talk about good old-fashioned sexism! Jill Biden has a PhD for goodness sake!).

Where we’re all temped, all of the time, to judge others by their appearance and to divide humanity into good and not-so-good according to what we can see

In such a world still the promise of God makes it way – according to simple, profound, counter-intuitive ideas – such as *the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*”

The Lord looks on the heart - it’s why, as Paul puts it:

*From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view.. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.*

It’s why we live by faith not by sight – it’s why, in this irrational tired-old world we who follow Christ *still* hold to the ancient promise – it’s why we dare to believe in love and truth and right-living and justice and peace – it is why – Paul again

We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

### **Offering prayer & the grace**

Lord we come to you believing that you see us as we truly are & love us anyway; indeed we believe that this lies behind your ancient promise to people of faith – so we live & so we would serve – as we give these & all our gifts - so that the world might be reconciled to God

### **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.*

**[We will meet when the danger is over'](#)**

John Bell

## Prayers

Everything that happens in the world at the moment is shaped & shadowed by the coronavirus & various ways of coping (or not coping very well) with it. Yet still the world turns & life continues: it is God's world & that world is central to our Christian concern and prayer

Lord God, we pray for the world that turns around us; for the strangers we pass every day, for those we read and hear about in our towns and cities, for the people who live far from here, whose lives are very different to ours – for all these people, Lord, make your love known, wherever people seek to do good to and for others.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord God, we pray for the world in which we move; for the things we do every day, at school, at home, at work; for the people who cross our path, perhaps in need of a helping hand, or a kind word; for the thoughts of our hearts and the way we live; that everything may be marked by a love which is really your love, at work in us and in the world.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord God, we pray for the world in which we live; for our own families and friends; for our neighbours and colleagues; for this church and many other religious gathering places where people seek to follow God, for the people who work to serve us in schools, hospitals, the Police, the government – in all these places, Lord, make your love known, especially through those who name the name of Christ.

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer –**

We offer these and all our prayers in Christ's name, Amen

### **BPW553 'Great is your faithfulness'**

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

As restrictions continue for a few more weeks – that will affect church life of course – we can do no more than to live by faith in the meantime – it was ever thus...till we meet again.

## **Music**