

Notices

Good Morning, and welcome to Tyndale on this first Sunday of August. This morning's service will include the act of Holy Communion. 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 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.

Welcome

I add my word of welcome to you all – here in church, on-line or following the script. We continue on into the beginnings of the 'new normal' – cautiously opening up; relaxing some rules while maintaining some others – in particular, in here, we're urging the continued use of face masks at all times except when seated – we're determined to look out for one another and to display, as far as possible, a proper Christian concern for the vulnerable.

So as this 'new normal' season comes round we will continue to do what Christians have always done – in season or out-of-season - worship

'Faithful One, so unchanging'

Brian Doerkson

Call to Worship

In a changing world, with lives that have been buffeted by winds of change, we crave the constancy and faithfulness of God – so we come, seeking, in the company of each other and in the expectation of God's presence; and in Jesus' name we worship

All peoples, nations, lives on earth,
All cities, places, great and small,
Hear this good news, this shining truth:
Christ lives who died for one and all.

All faith, all thought, all science, all art,
All cultures, ways of life, all mind,
Take this good news, this joy, to heart,
Christ lives whose life is yours and mine.

All war, destruction, danger, fear,
All crime, all terror, all dis-ease,
Hear this good news; fall silent, hear,
Christ lives whose ways are ways of peace

All that divides, where hatred grows,
All that destroys, where death finds home,
Know this good news a new world knows,
Christ lives who was and is to come.

All who the fragile world would heal
All who the fractured world would mend
Hear this good news that makes love real
Christ lives whose love shall never end.

Tune: Broadmead (BPW638); Michael Docker

Opening Prayer

Lord God, through word and song and prayer our thoughts and words strive to speak of your love and to proclaim it in the world, but it's a mystery that surrounds us and a promise that echoes far down the years and deep in our lives – beyond our words, beyond our understanding, far above, yet near as our own breath – Lord we worship you for love beyond measure, shaken down, pressed close and brought to us in Jesus Christ – Lord God we worship you in the mystery of these all-too human, hardly-enough sacred moments:

Forgive us when we have settled for ordinary things and untouched lives; then stir us up again, and take us to where, in Christ, we need to be, in order to grasp your love, and to know it, and to live it in our lives and in the world – for Christ's sake, Amen.

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

'We are here to offer our worship'

Janet Lunt

New Testament Reading: [Ephesians 4.1-16](#)

CG 49 'Heaven shall not wait'

Old Testament reading: [2 Samuel 11.26 - 12.13a](#)

Sermon:

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

Did you hear about the new method of dating stained glass? They've discovered that *some* of the stained glass in Canterbury Cathedral dates back to the 11th century – so it was there when Thomas Beckett the Archbishop was murdered in the Cathedral by assassins claiming to have done so at the direction of Henry II -

Who said, reputedly – the phrase has gone down in history though no one knows if he actually said these exact words - 'who will rid me of this turbulent priest?'

One window that was there during the assassination depicts the prophet Nathan. Ironic, wouldn't you say, that a witness to the murder of the religious thorn in the side of the King was Nathan, whose story we heard a few moments ago – who *spoke truth to power* –

to David, to make him realise just what he'd done in having Uriah killed..

Uriah – the pious husband of Bathsheba, whom David took to himself – whom David had killed – so as to clear the way for him to take Bathsheba for his wife.

You can almost hear David muttering, after Nathan showed him up as a murderer, 'who will rid me of this turbulent priest?' Nathan – a thorn in the King's side if ever there was one

We don't know what happened to Nathan, but apparently David *didn't* shoot the messenger; he admitted that he'd sinned & endured the consequences: the boy born out of wedlock died

The Thomas Beckett experience is more normal, wouldn't you say? How often, in history, in the present, have truth-tellers been sacked or silenced or worse?

10 martyrs are commemorated in stone above the West Door of Westminster Abbey, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Oscar Romero, Maximilian Kolbe, Manche Masemola,

Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia, granddaughter of Queen Victoria, Martin Luther King and Esther John..

Just 10 of thousands (how many more have lost their lives since?)

How many political prisoners moulder in the world's jails today for speaking the truth to power in their countries..how many more have been sacked, or silenced or worse?

Like Tong Yin-Kit – the first Hong Kong citizen to be convicted of terrorism and inciting secession under the new security laws. He awaits sentence.

Maybe Nathan got off lightly; maybe because he was a court prophet – paid to speak the hard word when it was required; like those mediaeval jesters (a bit of a myth, but still) who, reputedly, could say anything to the King without fear..

Or maybe it was the *way* it was said. *Show, don't tell* – the basic lesson for all good communication

Show David how sinful he'd been, don't tell him. A story of a mean rich man taking a poor man's lamb. Watch David get angry at the obvious injustice, then say 'you're the man!' –

And David realises; the greed is *his* when he helped himself to Bathsheba; the injustice is *his* - when he set Uriah up; the sinfulness is *his* when he arranged to have Uriah killed...

Show; don't tell – when speaking the truth to power..

Never has power been so out of control as it is today, it seems. Across the world laws are being passed to silence journalists, to outlaw lifestyles – LGBTQ lifestyles particularly; across the world governments are protecting themselves from whole tranches of the law – and stifling judges in the process; contracts are being awarded to cronies without scrutiny; police forces are acting with impunity; crime is being covered up; officials bury reports;

This is happening across the world & *close to home*. Show it up for what it is; let cartoonists draw; comedians tell jokes; satirists poke fun; let journalists investigate, news organisations broadcast reports; charities campaign on behalf of the poor as well as *help* the poor;

Welcome strangers to our shores & don't criminalise rescuers who save people from drowning in the English channel; protest at the packing of committees with cronies; the neglect of due process; the lack of transparency – these things give more power to the powerful and abuse the powerless –

this way lies the kind of greed and meanness and sinfulness displayed by David..

Show. Jesus spoke in parables about banquets & lost sheep & second sons who stayed at home and fumed with resentment and hung around with prostitutes, tax collectors and lepers and told his followers to go the extra mile and give away their robes

he didn't have to tell them; the Jewish powers-that-be *knew* he was attacking their narrow exclusivity, respectability and religiosity; the Roman powers-that-be knew he was attacking their harsh occupation
And when they realised he was speaking the truth to their power, they didn't repent like David; they plotted to have him killed.

They applied the Henry II protocol long before he thought of it – who will rid us of this troublesome preacher - ? Jewish authorities and Roman authorities in cahoots, and the result was a cross –
that's the ultimate 'show don't tell' wouldn't you say? God shows us how much he loves us – or, like Francis of Assisi said 'preach the gospel and if you have to, use words.'

Nathan looks like an exception; Thomas Beckett; Martin Luther King, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Maximilian Kolbe, Esther John – *they're* the rule. If you speak the truth to power; if you help the poor; if you protest violence; if you *love*, chances are you'll be silenced, or worse –

It's the painful, inevitable, glorious gospel way – it is the way of Christ, the cross-killed King..it's the way all of us are called to follow, who would be followers of Christ –

and you don't have to follow in the corridors of power, you can follow in the home and the street and the community – wherever you can *show* God's love -

And in any of those places - if you hold on to the glories of what lies beyond the Cross you will be able to – as Paul says 'Speak the truth in love' *and* if you come to this table...

'show...don't tell' (the bread & wine)

Offering Prayer

Lord, we come before you, grateful that you didn't just tell us about your love but showed it to us in the life and ministry and dying and rising of Christ; and in his name and because of him we offer ourselves in these and all our gifts and this bread and wine so that your love might be shown again as all these things are transformed –
from earthly things into the very things of heaven - that others might see, and believe

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.

BPW 637 'Put peace into each other's hands'

Communion

The table of the Lord is spread, it is for those who will come and see in broken bread and poured out wine not mere symbols, but the very substance of his life shed for us on the Cross and raised again the third day. The risen Christ is present among his people and it is here that we meet him. It is for those who know him a little and long to know him more - the invitation is for all those who are seeking him and who are weary of their sin and doubt to come and share the feast.

Confession

How shall I repay the lord for all his benefits to me? I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Lord God, if by grace alone we come, then because of grace we make our confession. We confess our part in a world of greed and self-seeking, a world of injustice and poverty – of body, mind and spirit.

We confess our part in a Christian faith often driven to compete with the loudest voices, and easily led into pursuing its own survival rather than the things of your Kingdom

We confess our part in the effects of sinfulness in ourselves and in others, and the weakness of our resolve to love.

Father forgive us and bring us through this act into an awareness of your grace once again, so that we may apprehend the true cost and glory of the gospel – in the lamb who was slain who is alive for evermore.

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 & joy at all times & in all places to give you thanks, Holy Father, heavenly King, almighty & eternal God, through Jesus Christ your only Son, our Lord

Lord we thank you for every moment of awareness of your life in us & in all the world; we thank you for the pleasures of each day, the challenges of each hour, the promises of a future filled with your love. But more than that we thank you for the constant & regular signs that are more than signs – in worship & in service & supremely here at this table – where bread & wine become more than things of earth as we break & pour & take them to ourselves together with one another; we thank you for your life here & because here, in every place & in every place because in Christ you came to that one most terrible place of all & carried us through to the glorious hope of his risen life and to the gift of His Holy Spirit.

Therefore with angels and archangels and 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 & 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 & the deepening of our love.

Responses

Leader	Here is bread	All	The staff of life
Leader	Here is wine	All	The fruit of the vine
Leader	How shall we eat?	All	Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
Leader	How shall we drink?	All	Looking to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith
Leader	For ourselves and all those who hunger & thirst		
All	We eat and drink in the hope of God's Kingdom.		

Bread & Wine

Prayer after communion

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

May ears that have heard your word be ready to listen for every cry of suffering, and willing to turn them into prayer. (*We pray for the ill, the bereaved, the victims of war and terrorism and the ones we love*)

May tongues that have sung your praise be ready to speak the truth in love, and committed to proclaiming the good news (*We pray for those who have suffered injustice, or whose minds are disturbed and ill-at-ease, or who suffer the consequences of speaking the truth*)

May eyes that have witnessed the drama of salvation in broken bread and poured out wine look for signs of your Kingdom & be prepared to wait. (*We pray for those who are caught up in futile hopes, sold out to false dreams, or anxious about this very day*)

Finally may bodies that have been fed with your body be refreshed by your Spirit's work and ready to do what is right - So may the whole of our lives reflect the wholeness of your Kingdom, and glory be to you for ever, Amen

BPW 623 'God of freedom, God of justice'

Blessing

So may 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 printing and posting; Rachel sorting music and playing with Ali and Dave, Tyndale singers singing 'live' and virtually; Elisabeth and Peter reading, the Stewarding Team preparing, watching over us, and cleaning up after – thanks everyone for taking part.

As the summer weeks affords us greater freedom than for a long time we continue to live by faith as we anticipate the 'new normal', support one another and show God's care to 'the neighbour who is always close at hand'