

## Notices

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 thank him for leading our worship and look forward to sharing this time together.

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.

Also, as usual, we have our zoom coffee shop after this morning's service at 11.30 for those that are able to make it. Thank you.

## Welcome

Welcome to Tyndale Baptist Church – in church, on-line, or following the script. The world turns and in that world we seek to conduct the duty and joy of worship.

**'May the fragrance of Jesus fill this place'**

*Graham Kendrick*

## Call to Worship

Like a beautiful fragrance that lifts the heart and fills every inch of space is the Jesus whose life and ministry and death and rising we follow – and in whose name we come; one of us who is God, we believe; taking everything we are into the presence of God Almighty and bring everything God is into our experience – endless love, limitless forgiveness, overwhelming grace – and by whose name we worship..

**BPW37 'Crown him with many crowns'** (vs1,2,3, 6)

## Opening Prayer

Lord, you are love – love by which everything has been made, and love that reaches out towards all that you have made – towards us – through Jesus, died, risen, reigning and returning – love that knows no limits, love that overcomes all things, love that hopes when hope is gone, love that rises in our hearts, love that forgives and restores and refuses to be beaten by the worst we can do; love that breathes in every atom, every sinew, and shines – shines endlessly upon us in Christ Jesus –

And Lord, haltingly, and without claiming too much for ourselves, we love you; not because we are strong, but because we are weak, and we have discovered where true love is to be found, and we are constantly brought back to that one place where, we know, all our strivings and longings are fulfilled. We love you for your grace and forgiveness, and we love you because we cannot do anything else,

And Lord, we turn to you again; so that this day we might see more of your love for us in Jesus, and learn to love you once more, and as we do so, to learn to love each other and the world you have made, because of Jesus:

## 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 for ever Amen.

**BPW 634 'Make me a channel of your peace'**

**New Testament Reading:** [Ephesians 4.25 - 5.2](#)

**CG 63 'Inspired by love and anger'**

**Old Testament reading:** [2 Samuel 15:1-13](#)

## 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 on towards your kingdom, amen*

Actions, they say, have consequences. I know it depends how you look, but...Brexit, Coronavirus.. 50 years before we'll know, they say; a public enquiry next year, they say..

David's actions (taking Bathsheba; having Uriah killed) had consequences. Nathan said they would, remember – *'Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house'*

The consequences? death of the child born out of wedlock; the rape of Tamar by Amnon – *Absalom* – the son who rebelled against his father & proclaimed himself King, who raised an army against David – and who was eventually killed

So David's sinful actions had consequences - misery, death, intrigue, betrayal, incest. Nathan - *Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house'*

Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Eastenders – they've got nothing on David and his family - *Misery, death, intrigue, betrayal and incest* - the sword shall never depart from your house....

It's how things are often presented in the OT – if you do right you will prosper; if you do wrong, you will suffer – a *this-worldly; earth-bound* view, you might say..

Moses not trusting God and *not* entering the promised land; Abraham trusting God for a child & prospering; Israel itself – doing right & prospering or doing wrong and being exiled

But through all this, people lived their lives. Just imagine how it must have felt for David to watch as his family is torn apart, as Absalom betrays, attacks, & is eventually killed..

Imagine.. See, I'm trying to chart the way of faith through all this – as gradually over the centuries the understanding of God grows –

God as close and yet as mysterious as the clouds of Sinai, yet not at all like the other gods – not bound by the laws of this world; not shackled to the actions-have-consequences iron law

It all depends how you look. Gradually they came to a different way of looking... Isaiah - *Comfort my people; speak kindly to Jerusalem, her bondage is served, her penalty paid;*

Ezekiel - *I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes.* Job - *'the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.'*

Psalm 41 - *All this has come upon us, yet we have not forgotten you,*

If *they* felt love & forgiveness despite every consequence, how much more would God?

David, feeling grief at the death of Absalom & tenderness towards him despite everything –

How much more would God feel grief at the waywardness of his people & tenderness despite everything

–

Put nowhere so powerfully, perhaps, as in Hosea. After Hosea had railed against the injustice and idolatry of Israel, he speaks a word from God

*How can I hand you over, O Israel? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.* & gradually earth-bound views of God give way to heaven-bound views of God

the God of whom Jesus speaks when he tells of the Prodigal Son, describes the lilies of the field & shows compassion for lepers, tax-collectors & prostitutes –

The God who hovers behind words like Paul's in Ephesians, when he calls us to - *be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.*

A Father's love; the great counter to what the world has to offer, with its pseudo-religious ideas of karma – what goes around comes around –

Like the song - 'Somewhere in my youth and childhood, I must have done something- how often has one sat with someone in distress & tried to counter the 'I must have done something to deserve this' philosophy of the world that eats away inside...

I confess I'm as much tempted by it as anyone else –

Not as vicious or scheming as Absalom, perhaps, but sinful nevertheless; unkind, or thoughtless, or part of all the sad mediocrities of the age –

& only a Fatherly or Motherly love will do, then, don't you think? A parent who knows exactly what you are like & loves you anyway – that's the gospel in a nutshell –

back to the beginning of the David story – God sees the heart; onto the heart of the David story, at the death of Absalom; *Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son!'*

Right to the essence of the Jesus story on the cross: *Father, forgive them for they don't know what they're doing* – on to the triumph of the Jesus story: *'I am alive for evermore!'*

To the words of Paul to the gossipy, angry, cheating, lying Christians of Ephesus & beyond

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us<sup>1</sup> and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

In this world, actions have consequences, or we'd like to think so; or we hope they won't, or we think *they* deserve all they get while *we* deserve only kindness and understanding;

but in God's kingdom the consequences of our actions are held & forgiven by a love that knows no bounds...that goes to a cross, and rises to a New Day.

### **Offering Prayer**

Lord we come to you, seeking your forgiveness and acceptance once more; we know we have done what we ought not to have done; we know we have failed to do what we ought to have done; we know we live in a divided, fractured world and we know we are a part of the problem even if we *would* be part of the solution; but we also know (believe, really) that you know us; that you know every thought of our heart and are with us every step of the way- that you know us as we are and love us anyway, with a love that knows no limit. So we give of ourselves in these and all our gifts, in the hope and trust that your love will be made known throughout the world.

### **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 36 'Forgiveness is your gift'**

#### **Prayers of intercession –**

In our prayers, after the words 'Lord in your mercy', please say together, '**Hear our prayer**'..

We pray for all whose actions are leading to unforeseen consequences for good or ill– in a moment of silence we bring politicians & world leaders, scientists & designers & manufacturers, artists & those who are inspired – and ourselves and those we love - to mind.... Please make us more aware of our impact on the world for good or ill

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who must endure the consequences of what others have done – in a moment of silence we bring refugees and asylum-seekers, civilians in war-zones & any who moulder in poverty or sickness – and ourselves and those we love - to mind.... Please make us more conscious of those who suffer

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who blame themselves for their own suffering. In a moment of silence we bring the mentally ill & depressed, the anxious & disabled, the victims of abuse & neglect – and ourselves and those we love - to mind...Please make us ready to share God's love

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are quick to blame others for what they have done. In a moment of silence we bring the ill-informed, conspiracy theorists and fake news peddlars – and ourselves and those we love - to mind... Please prepare us to speak the truth in love

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all whose arrogance leads them to think they can do what they like. In a moment of silence we bring dictators, criminals and corrupt politicians and officials – and ourselves and those we love - to mind...Please help us to be humble and to point to the living God.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who crave forgiveness for mistakes they have made. In a moment of silence we bring prisoners & the addicted & compromised officials – and ourselves and those we love - to mind....Please help us to live out the gospel of forgiveness

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

**Blessing**

May the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son & Holy Spirit, be with us & 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; Dave and Debbie reading,; the Stewarding Team preparing, watching over us, and cleaning up after – thanks everyone for taking part.

As we enjoy the summer we continue to live by faith as we prepare for whatever lies ahead, support one another & determine to show God's love & forgiveness in the world.