

Notices

Good Morning, and welcome to Tyndale on this first Sunday of October. This morning's service will include the act of Holy Communion. If you are a visitor, with us on line or here in the church, 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.

On Tuesday, our in-person Coffee Shop, will take place here in the Sanctuary from 10am until 12 noon, where a warm welcome will await everyone.

On Wednesday our *time @tyndale* will be held in the Sanctuary. Refreshments are served from 7.30pm.

Our coffee shop held over Zoom has moved to a Thursday morning at 11.00am, with the sign in details being able to be obtained through the Tyndale web site.

Thank you.

Welcome

Welcome to the worship of Tyndale Baptist Church, whether you're in church, on line, watching the recording or following the script. As October begins once again we gather around the Lord's Table and as the summer recedes and the autumn proper begins so the rhythms of our Faith lead us toward that long period from Advent to Easter when the story of Jesus comes into focus. These weeks are, in a way, a preparation for that wonderful story yet still, now, we worship...

'Be still and know that I am God'

John Bell

Call to Worship

So we gather seeking God; near or far we bring our frail lives; our hopes and dreams, into this special time and place. We are called here. Perhaps it is only faintly heard; perhaps it rings loud and clear; still, it is God who calls; the Maker and Sustainer of all; and by the name of his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we worship

'Who can know the mind of our creator'

Martin Layzell

Responsive reading *from* Psalm 119

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

All Give me understanding, that I may keep your law & observe it with my whole heart

Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

All Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

All Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

All See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord..

All Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.

Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.

All I will keep your law continually, for ever and ever.

I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought your precepts.

All I will also speak of your decrees before kings, and shall not be put to shame;

I find my delight in your commandments, because I love them.

All I revere your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.

Opening Prayer

As the sun rises this day; as the weather works its way and the world turns and all around us lives are lived; we praise God's holy name, Children play, babies cry, grown-ups rest and relax and work and make their way and we praise God's holy name. Old people look back and forward, young people dream of bright futures; poor people struggle to make ends meet; rich people plan and accumulate and enjoy the world – and we praise God's holy name.

And from the heavens beautiful things come to us; and in the earth good mixes with not-so-good and Christ the Lord is in all and through all and holds all things – and we praise God's holy name.

And hearts turn towards God from every town, every street, every nation, in many myriad ways and forms – and Christ is named or honoured or rumoured or ignored or hardly known – and we praise God's holy name.

God we acknowledge you; Christ we name you and honour you, Holy Spirit we bask in your promised presence and your holding, comforting, changing, *gathering* work – and God we praise your holy, three-fold,

undivided, always faithful name – and we thank you...and we rejoice in your presence – and we stand before you in the name of Jesus. 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

BPW 529 'From heaven you came'

'There is a redeemer'

Melody Green

Reading John 1: 35-51

Sermon

Lord we give you this time; may what 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.

What are you looking for? Apart from petrol...or turkeys,...or a Mc Donald's milkshake...!

But seriously, what are you looking for? Jesus's question in John's gospel could be addressed to our world - What are you looking for? Sunlit uplands? Better housing, more money, an easier life, improved health? An end to global warming, perhaps? A peaceful retirement – amen to that! More security?

An Afghan student is looking for the govt. to revise its rules of entry so that his 13 year-old sister can be got out of Afghanistan before she's married off to a Taleban fighter. The student's in England; he received a letter (*through the post? Can you imagine?*) from the Taleban, threatening to take his sister as punishment....what are you looking for?

The desperate woman on the radio was in floods of tears 'cos she'd run out of petrol so her Mum had missed one day of her daily kidney dialysis treatment – she felt a bit off, but after two days she'll start getting ill...after 3 days?...4....?

What are you looking for?

A new minister next year to kickstart Tyndale!... what are you looking for?

Everyone's looking for something. It's the human lot, isn't it. We're never satisfied with what we've got – religion often tells us we should be, but, really, we can't be can we?

We'd never have progressed from hunter-gatherers to farming villages to industrial cities to connected communities if we weren't always looking for something to make things better –

We'd never have developed modern medicines; invented computers, flown to the moon; become teachers, lecturers, accountants, business people, musicians, medics, builders, engineers, researchers, students – you name it – if we weren't looking for something –

What are you looking for? John's tale of Jesus' call to his first disciples is different to Mark's or Matthew's – no boats, no fishing, no nets. I've always thought it's remarkable that Simon & Andrew would just give up fishing for a life of wandering around after Jesus for three years

What about their livelihood? What about families at home? "OK for you, you big lummock, but what am I supposed to put on the table tonight?" – You can hear Mrs Simon, can't you?

Or James and John the sons of Zebedee, mending nets. Can't imagine Dad was best pleased when his two lads gave up on the family business just like that. As someone who left his Dad running a family business I know how painful he found it but at least my Dad had time to get used to the idea - not Zebedee! – talk about being left in the lurch....

None of this in John. The first disciples (Simon & Andrew, it seems) are already religious – disciples of John – seems like there were always bands of men (usually men) wandering around after this or that religious teacher – what were *they* looking for...?

Philip & Nathaniel – we don't know much about them – maybe they were fishermen; maybe they were casual labourers, hanging around, hoping to be hired - maybe to pick broccoli for £30/hour! No lorries to drive back then...

Don't know what they were looking for – Nathaniel sounds a bit prejudiced, if you ask me, 'Can anything good come from Nazareth? A bit cynical – you know the type: down the pub, after the match, in front of the telly:

'can anything good come from...Syria, in a boat across the English channel....?' Afghanistan, in a flea-bitten motel on the ringroad...'Southmead, Lawrence Weston, Knowle West – ?' you've heard it said..

Thank God for the bringers of good news to such places, in churches, community projects, charities... Can anything good? Depends what you're looking for..

What are you looking for? In 1st C Palestine as in 21st C post-Brexit Britain, as anywhere in any age where human beings have made their way, everyone was looking for something..

What are you looking for?

This is early on in the story, before Jesus has done anything; no teaching, miracles, sayings, crowds; not yet the Cross, much less Easter, no reflection on any of what it all might mean

But John writes for us..for believers everywhere....Maybe he is also writing for our world in its striving, struggle & strain, with its politicians promising much to those with plenty who are looking for more & delivering little to those who are just looking to get by and avoiding answering any questions about why they haven't done as they said they would do for *anyone* pretty much..

with its dictators making sure that their people aren't looking for anything more than what they're told they can have..

With its artists, musicians, poets & pundits picturing the glories all around & the pain of not finding what you're looking for – Clive James poem 'Japanese Maple' - *A final flood of colours will live on As my mind dies, Burned by my vision of a world that shone So brightly at the last, and then was gone.*

& it's where we are..not yet Advent , nor Christmas, nor Lent, nor Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Day....

But *now* we are looking for something. *Now* we are gathered here, in front of a table, with bread, wine, and our memories and hopes for the future, and beliefs, and commitments...

Now we are human – like those disciples; and maybe we are religious, like those disciples; and maybe we are gainfully employed or maybe we are retired or maybe we are sure, or maybe we are confused about what we believe or, indeed, not sure *if* we can believe at all....

And maybe we are positive about the world, or cynical about what's happening all around, or despairing that anything will get much better any time soon.

But however we are, however it is for us, in the world, in the church, in our lives;

We are looking for something...we are human – we are *bound* to be looking for something..

The gospel is for us – & everyone. As Jesus said, '*Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.*'

& he inspired those disciples with a vision of the age to come – 'Truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

And Andrew said to Simon 'we have found the Messiah!' – and they followed (will you follow?), and the rest, as they say, is history....

Offering Prayer

Lord we come to you. Our striving, yearning hearts, that are often looking for something, find their fulfilment in you alone. We know this, though still yet we strive. Surround us with your peace & rest once more & help us to live by faith in you in this frantic, searching, often unsatisfied world. So we give of ourselves in these & all our gifts, trusting & believing that you alone, in Christ, are what we are looking for and committed to serving Him in the world.

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.

Bread of the world, this broken people

Breaks bread to stand with all who die,
Wine of the earth, a suffering people
Pours out this wine with all who cry.

As with the world we are divided,
As now we hear the bells that toll,
Here, Lord, we know our fears invaded
By that one death that makes us whole,

As Jesus died one time in history -
Flesh broken, blood spilt once for all,
So Christ comes to us in this mystery,
Bread shared and Wine; this is God's call.

Bread for our lives and for our living,
Wine for our suffering and our sin,
Be for us Christ in death and giving,
Christ living here, a world to win.

Michael Docker/Spiritus Vitae 98 98 BPW428

Communion

Invitation

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.

So we pray:

Confession

O Lord our God, before your grace we may do no more than receive, and in that hope we make our confession.

We confess our part in a world always looking for something, always running after new experiences, often neglectful of the lessons of the past, rarely satisfied with what it has. .

We confess a Christian faith marked often by a spirit of striving and restlessness, frequently running after the new, similarly neglectful of the past.

We confess lives full of striving, beguiled by the new, nostalgic for a half-remembered past.

Father forgive us and help us to receive what in Christ you freely offer -seen here in bread and wine – costly grace and suffering love and life everlasting.

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.

Prayer of 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 and our joy at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord..

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, and upon these gifts of bread and wine and this eating and 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

Leader Here is bread

All **The foolishness of God in Christ;**

Leader Here is wine

All **Weakness stronger than our strength**

Leader Who will eat here?

All **Not many are wise; not many have power; few are noble**

Leader Who will drink here?

All **The foolish, who will shame the wise; the weak, who will shame the strong , the poor in Spirit, whose is the Kingdom of heaven.**

Leader In the foolishness of God, before the world's flawed wisdom

All **We eat and drink in faith**

Bread & Wine

Prayer after communion

Lord, we have offered our gifts, and seen the sign of your love here; may we see it at work in our world.

Lord, we have confessed our failure to live as your redeemed people; may we now live for the world's redemption.

Lord, we have witnessed the lure of excess; the striving spirit of the age; the destruction of all that is holy; may we now live for beauty, truth and human flourishing in your world

Lord, we would stay in step with the Spirit of your Son; help us neither to deny nor betray his calling on our lives but always to worship and serve in his name. Amen.

CG 148 'Will you come and follow me'

'Strengthen for service Lord'

Tyndale virtual choir/ Sarah Dodds

Blessing

Thanks to everyone who has made today's service possible. We continue on into another week, determined to live by faith in the One who calls us to love Him and one another and the world in Christ's name. Until we meet again...