

## Notices & Welcome

Good morning and a very warm welcome to Tyndale this morning, whether you are here with us in person or online, or indeed a visitor, we hope you will feel at home with us.

Our service this morning is being led by our minister Michael Docker, and we thank him for leading our worship today. We look forward especially, to receiving Jane Abbey into church membership once again here at Tyndale and look forward to sharing this special service with her.

As usual our Tuesday coffee shop will be taking place this week, from 10am until 12 noon here in the sanctuary. Do come along and enjoy this time of refreshments and conversation.

On Tuesday evening we have our church members monthly meeting at 7.30pm. This will be taking place online, and the joining details will be sent out via email, later today.

Wednesday night at time@tyndale, we are having a fun evening of games and quizzes. The evening starts at 7.30pm with refreshments and the games will commence at 8pm. Again, do join us for this informal, fun evening.

On Thursday we have our online coffee shop, which starts at 11am. The details of how to join this time of conversation are on our website.

This Monday is our last day covering and being involved in the night shelter. We continue to think and pray for all those involved in the night shelter initiative, and especially for the churches who will be taking over from us as we end our 6-week commitment. We pray for all the volunteers, the work involved and especially for all the guests who benefit so much from the hospitality and food.

Last week I gave the announcement regarding Rachel Haig our Community Minister and her leaving date with us being brought forward to the middle of February. As a result, Rachel's leaving events are now to be on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February. On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> February, after Rachel has led our worship, we will be having refreshments and cake following the service. This will give us a time to mark all the hard work, dedication, and friendship that Rachel has brought to Tyndale and all of us here in the congregation over the last 9 years. Then on the following Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will again be marking her ministry at the coffee shop, where so much of Rachel's community work has either stemmed from or been a place to invite people to. You are all invited to join us at both events, to spend some time with Rachel and wish her well as she starts this new chapter in her life. We continue to think and pray for Rachel as she looks forward to her new challenges.

### **CG24 'Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life'**

#### **Call to worship**

We know we are not as we should be; we come from a world that wears us down at every turn – still we come in hope; still we come in trust, seeking, yearning, longing – and we come at the call of God in Christ – the Way, the Truth and the Life – and in his name, we worship

### **BPW36 'Come, worship God'**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Lord our God we praise you, Heavenly Father we bless you, Eternal One we honour your name; Creator of all things we stand in wonder and awe at what you have made; God of love and life we thank you for what you have given to us (silence) –

we know we have sinned; we confess that we are weak; we believe that because of Christ Jesus and your endless grace to us in Him, we are forgiven; thanks be, thanks be, thanks be; (silence) –

now help us, now hold us, now hear us as we pray and sing and think and do all this together – and worship you in Jesus' name -

#### **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

### **LP250 'Bread of Life, hope of the world'**

Bernadette Farrell

#### **Welcome into membership – Jane Abbey**

We are now to receive into membership *Jane Abbey*. In January the Tyndale Church Meeting unanimously voted in favour of Jane joining the church..

In doing so we look to share with Jane in the work of God's Kingdom, in mutual encouragement and in the whole life of God's people through this church.

Jane do you declare your faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, having placed your trust in Him and received His grace?

**I do**

Do you believe God has called you to serve Christ in membership of this Baptist Church?

**I do**

Do you commit yourself once more to seek the things of God's Kingdom, in the company of this people, relying on the empowering of His Spirit?

**I do**

#### A QUESTION ADDRESSED TO THE CHURCH MEMBERS ASSEMBLED

Do you, as members of this Church, welcome Jane into membership, offering her your support and looking to share with her in all that God wills for his people, in the service of His Kingdom, for Christ's sake? If so, please stand

#### *Members Stand*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and on behalf of this fellowship, I welcome you into membership of Tyndale Baptist Church....(*handshake*)

#### **Prayer**

Father, in this simple way we once again express the profound truth of the gospel, that you call men and women to serve Christ in fellowship with one another, and out of that calling and response, the mystery of Christ's body on earth is lived out. That truth is here focussed in the lives of real people.

We pray for Jane at this point in her Christian journey, as she leaves some things behind and takes up some new things. We thank you for her, for her faith in you, and for the gifts you have given that she has used in the service of your Kingdom over many years and that she now offers through the life of this church.

So now we ask that as Jane joins Tyndale she will know afresh the blessings of your life in her, that she and Kevin will grow ever stronger together and that we all, as together we continue in worship and service, shall see new signs of your Kingdom among us and beyond us. Amen

#### **BMS World Mission Day of prayer (PPT)**

#### **Readings**

[Exodus 12:1-11](#)

[John 14:1-7](#)

#### **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 on towards your kingdom*

We're on a 'journey' - bit of a cliché isn't it? 'The journey of life'; but true nonetheless: we're all on a journey; different stages; sometimes not seeming to be travelling very far; sometimes it seems as if we've come a long way -

And there will have been significant points along the way - a new relationship; a new job; a new home; some seem a long time ago; some of them are happening right now; sometimes we crave a new destination or a different view; sometimes we don't really want to move far from where we are now; sometimes we wonder how much further we have to go; sometimes we feel as if we're standing still, sometimes we wish we could slow down - 'stop the world, I want to get off'

Life's a journey - a cliché, but true...a cliché that's been a godsend for many a preacher over the years, wanting to say something about the journey of faith.

It's not just preachers, though, is it? Journeys are one of the most enduring motifs in story-telling: the Lord of the Rings - Rachel, I know it's one of your favourites...that long journey - quest - of Frodo, Gandalf, Aragorn and the rest, from the Shire to the gates of Mordor

Homer's Oddysey; C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia; Harry Potter; Pilgrim's Progress; Don Quixote; the long, terrible journey after Auschwitz in 'the Truce' by Primo Levi

Songs: 'I could walk 500 miles'; 'driving home for Christmas'; 'the long & winding road'; 'homeward bound' - we sang a parody on a long trek in the Cairngorms, 'Outward Bound, I wish I wasn't...!'; hundreds more..

I like travel - long walks in the hills; drives to far destinations - I once drove north to south across Scotland from John O-Groats to Gretna Green *overnight* - packing, booking in to flights, waiting around for departure; arriving tired but excited.

Train travel - I remember a long trip by train from Birmingham to visit relatives in north west Cumbria in the early 60s - steam train - 'dark satanic mills'.. the track clickety-clacking underneath; towns and hills flashing by...stations- I remember one - Manchester? thronged with people & porters with luggage carts...magazine stands, smoke, noise....

Oh I know it's so common an idea it's a cliché, of course it is; 'not the destination, it's the journey'; 'better to travel hopefully than to arrive'; one more step along the road I go'...still...

The Bible's got lots of stories of journeys: the 40-year journey of the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land (we heard a bit from just before they started out); the nightmare journey of the exiles taken into captivity in Babylon - 700 miles from their home

Jesus - setting his face like flint towards Jerusalem - wandering around with his disciples for three years or so, getting closer and closer to the destination...Paul, travelling all over the Roman Empire with the gospel

& here in John, at the last way-station on the journey, just after getting to Jerusalem, just before the long-slide towards the cross, they gather around him, bewildered - scared..

And the whole long, drawn out, farewell - the speech, the last supper (indicate table); the well-known sayings, phrases and scenes - vine and branches; peace I leave with you; foot-washing, Judas betrayal - so many - last for well-nigh a quarter of the book -

& near the beginning of it all Jesus speaks with his disciples & starts to prepare them for when he won't be around anymore. You know this; it's deep in our Christian bones, isn't it?

*'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'*

You know the way to the place where I am going.....journey see? Nothing about where 'My Father's House' is; tantalising, though – many dwelling places...

Heaven, for us, isn't it? My Father's House. Respectfully, may I say that's not the main point; Oh, I know how much that means, has meant to so many...but still – it's not the main point...

'you know the way to the place where I am going'...

That's the thing about all our journeying, isn't it? Knowing the way. How I used to enjoy poring over a map – spread out & held down on some rocky outcrop, with the wind trying to snatch it away...I remember one time, on Kinder Scout in Derbyshire, a group of us led by three older guys who knew the place well & who showed us how to find our way across featureless terrain in thick cloud using only a map and compass...then it began to snow – a blizzard - whiteout, they call it – couldn't see anything at all, but the map and compass method brought us down safely in the right place...

You know the way to the place where I am going..Sat Navs – thank God for Sat Navs – car drivers will know what I mean. Sometimes I've arranged to see someone and left the journey to the last possible minute, armed only with a post-code, a house number and that reassuring, calm, all-knowing voice 'at the roundabout, take the second exit....you have reached your destination....the destination is on the right...'

'You know the way to the place where I am going'

Only the disciples didn't know, did they? Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' –

Like us, so often, isn't it? We don't know where – first – we are going...Maybe you're one of those rare individuals who's got it all mapped out, your journey of life – formed a plan at school and stuck to it ever since – career, marriage, possessions – friend of mine has had a photo of a Range Rover on his fridge for years. He hasn't got one yet, but he's working on it..

It's not us, mostly, though, is it? Mostly we don't know; mostly we journey hopefully; meet new challenges that come our way...don't know what's round the next corner...look back and can see how things have worked out, maybe; hopefully we're glad about the journey so far; the places we've been; the people we've known; the adventures we've had;

Truth is we don't want to know, do we, exactly how things are going to work out – where we're going to be next year, the year after...what we're going to do, who we're going to meet – where life is going to take us.

It's a funny old time, this, for all of us. Could never have guessed, 2 years ago we'd have been locked down; had to wear masks everywhere; couldn't journey around freely.

I didn't know, back in September, how it would feel being semi-retired, how it would feel now a few weeks away from retiring altogether; I don't know how it will feel when I am.

Guess you couldn't imagine, Rachel, just a few weeks ago, that you'd be moving on to a secular post, and to some ministry stuff that's yet to be worked through.

Guess you didn't think, Jane, when you came here weekly back in the 80s where life would take you before bringing you back here again...

None of us know – thank goodness, I say..maybe we're more like Thomas than we'd care to admit - 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

Rachel, you know I can't be here next week, for your final Sunday – though I will be there on the following Tuesday when we say farewell and godspeed at the coffee shop – so let me, for now – well, its for all of us really – for me, as well, as I contemplate a very changed life after retirement-for Tyndale, as it considers ministry..

Let me – this is obvious isn't it? We shouldn't feel too superior to Thomas -'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

It's true for us all, isn't it? We don't know where we are going...for we who are Christian we don't really know where God is leading us either

But this is what's obvious – Jesus answer..'I am the Way – the Truth and the Life..

I am the Way. I think that's all we need; like a lamp for our path; like those always-ready Israelites, eating their Passover ready for the journey – living by faith

The human condition filled with faith – none of us knows the way – none of us *want* to know the way; but it will be enough for us, for you, Rachel, Jane - for us all – to know that the Way is..Jesus

And to know the Way? You'll have to find out about your Cross, and you'll have to serve and go the extra mile and love without limit and be part of the Church and witness in the world – and then – who knows where you're going? But you'll know the Way..

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

### **Offering prayer**

Lord, we come to you, wherever we are on life's journey, whatever has happened to us so far, whatever we hope for; we recognise that faith means not knowing and at the same time knowing the Way – Jesus, our Lord – we come to you in His name – and we give of ourselves in these and all our gifts in the hope, prayer and expectation that the Way will be 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 evermore, Amen

### **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 merely 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 our God we make our confession. In a world grown grey with the weariness of war-talk; poverty and injustice, we confess our complicity; enjoying peace while others struggle to survive.

In a Christian faith too often seduced by talk of its own righteousness, we confess our complacency; too quickly condemning the wrongs of others

In lives easily led by the loudest voices of exclusion; we confess our confusion; thinking those worth loving are the ones who are like us.

Father forgive us and bring us through this act to the very footstool of grace once again, so that we may gaze on the true cost and glory of the gospel – (Pause) 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 memory 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 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**

Here is bread

**For us to feed on Christ the Way**

Here is wine

**For us to be refreshed by the Truth and the Life**

How shall we eat?

**Ready for the journey out of captivity**

How shall we drink

**Ready for the journey to God's Kingdom**

For ourselves and for all who travel hopefully

**We eat and drink in faith**

### **Bread & Wine**

#### **Prayer after communion**

We have eaten bread on the journey. Now we pray for those who must travel in danger, without rest, with little hope of reaching their destination – in refugee camps, on leaky boats, through hostile territory.

That they may find comfort and welcome at journey's end, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord have mercy**

We have been sustained and refreshed by the wine of the kingdom. Now we pray for those who lack sustenance and refreshment, in cold homes and at foodbanks, in Afghanistan and many other places. That they may be helped and relieved, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

We have seen glimpses of our destination. Now we pray for ourselves and all who travel hopefully through life; who face new challenges or must move in new directions. That we will know the Way and that Rachel, and Jane, and all of us in our journey of faith, will know your present, gracious, guiding hand, let us pray to the lord.

**Lord have mercy**

The journey has started; and we have departed  
from places of darkness towards the true light.  
The God who is for us sends His Son before us,  
Whose Spirit will lead us from wrong ways to right.  
Dear God who in Jesus comes with us and frees us  
We praise you and promise our lives on this day;  
Since first we decided your Spirit has guided,  
So now as we travel lead us in your Way.

With hearts full of singing, with steps light and springing,  
Or minds in confusion and dark days ahead;  
Please keep us from falling, from missing our calling,  
From letting the world's ways divert us in dread.  
We'll not look behind us, nor let worries blind us  
Or hold on too tightly to yesterday's hurts -  
The road we'll walk lightly, our eyes shining brightly,  
Our way lit by Christ's light, His hope in our hearts.

*Tune 'The Ash Grove' BPW448/Michael Docker*

**Blessing**

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always, Amen.

As I am unable to be here next week for Rachel's final service – I shall be at the farewell Coffee Shop the following Tuesday – may I reiterate the appreciation and thanks of us all here at Tyndale that's already been expressed – and my personal thanks to her for her friendship and support – I know more will be said next week, but for now, Rachel, may I add my own thoughts prayers and best wishes to those of so many here and hereabouts as you embark on the next stage of your journey of faith.