

Sunday Worship 5th April 2020

Opening Prayer

Almighty God,
nothing is hidden from you,
not even the secrets of our hearts.
By your Holy Spirit,
purify our deepest thoughts,
so that we may truly love you
and bring honour to your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Songs *How Great is our God* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk> or
Great is Thy Faithfulness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>

Family Spot *People Jesus Met: Pharisees* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22phAeCLiRY>

Family Song *My Lighthouse* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jw2d2LALKg8>

Readings

Galatians 6:2-5 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, ⁵ for each one should carry his own load.

Matthew 11:25 – 30 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. ²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Bible Spot *The Bearing of Burdens* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmUcKeZ3F38&t=7s>

Reflection

1. Burden bearing includes empathetic listening, prayer and practical care. Whose burdens can you take up in this coming week, and how?
2. Which people, or what things, do you look to in order to fill the 'God-shaped hole' in your life?
3. Take a moment to reflect on your sinful nature and the Saviour by whose stripes you are healed – then use the confession that follows.

Confession

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you are merciful and kind,
but we have gone our own way,
not loving you as we ought,
nor loving our neighbours as ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
We deserve your condemnation.
Father, forgive us.
Help us to love you and our neighbour,
and to live for your honour and glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 31:9-18 Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. ¹⁰ My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. ¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends-- those who see me on the street flee from me. ¹² I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. ¹³ For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. ¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God." ¹⁵ My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. ¹⁶ Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love. ¹⁷ Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave. ¹⁸ Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly against the righteous.

Prayers with Peter Savage <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PH2JnN7RHEs>

Community Spot with Elisabeth Holland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEsevbuqgcY&t=6s>

Prayer for family breakdown

God of peace, we pray for families in crisis. Heal the broken-hearted, and bind up the wounded; comfort and sustain them in their need. Give them wise and faithful friends, grace to forgive and be forgiven, and courage for the road ahead, 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Songs Hear our Prayer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0aOG9AKbwg> or
Love Divine All Loves Excelling https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmfqe_8SEI

Eternal God and Father by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord. Amen.

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