ENGLISH REFORMED CHURCH

"REFORMED METHODIST RESTART"

DIVINE WORSHIP 2
at the former
ATTLEBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

27 October 2024 at 3.30 pm.

Conducted by

The Revd Dr Alan C. Clifford

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them (*Ephesians 2:8-10*).

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL

L I T U R G Y

Pastor:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth *(Ps. 124: 8).*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ *(1 Cor. 1: 3).*

Pastor and congregation:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, you heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(Tune: Old 100th)

Pastor:

He who has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to an idol nor sworn deceitfully, he shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation *(Ps. 24: 4-5).*

Let us call upon the Lord our God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, eternally blessed. Amen.

HYMN 1

THE LAW OF GOD

Pastor and congregation:
We acknowledge, O LORD, Your holy, just and timeless law, the Ten Commandments. We acknowledge that we should worship no other God beside You and avoid all idolatry. We should speak Your sacred name with reverence, and honour Your Sabbath command in the light of the Gospel. You also command us to honour our parents, and that every other social duty should be carefully observed. Thus we must avoid murder, adultery, stealing and false remarks about others. Being content with Your provision, we should never envy others or desire what is lawfully theirs. May we always seek to observe these holy requirements sincerely from our hearts according to the summary stated by Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself *(Matthew 22: 37-40).*

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

Pastor and congregation:

Eternal, most glorious and ever blessed God, we humble ourselves in Your holy presence. Acknowledging our sinful and disobedient natures, we confess we have offended You in thought and word, desire and deed. We thus deserve Your just punishment. Through the precious shed blood of Your beloved Son, our only Saviour Jesus Christ, forgive all our sins and purify our minds and hearts. Make us truly aware of the evil of our hearts, that we might hate all that You hate and love all that You love. Strengthen and protect us against the world, the flesh and the devil. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant that we might desire, more and more, to live faithful, loving, unselfish and obedient lives. Help us thus to grow in grace and holiness day by day. Grant us these blessings for Your glory's sake, in the name of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, the only Saviour of the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Receive into your hearts the promises of grace and pardon which God gives us in his Word:

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life' *(John 3: 16).*

'For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost' *(Luke 19: 10).*

'Jesus said, … "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven."' *(Matthew 9: 2).*

'Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, … For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. … God commends his love towards us, in that while we

were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him' *(Romans 5: 1, 6, 8-9).*

HYMN 2

THE WORD OF GOD

(**OT**: Psalm 51; **NT:** Luke 18; Ephesians 2)

CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH

Pastor and congregation

I believe in You, the One, Eternal and living God, and that You created all things as from nothing by Your infinite wisdom and power.

I believe, Father, that You uniquely revealed Yourself to us in Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. That He was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. I believe, Lord Jesus, that You were condemned to death for my sake under Pontius Pilate, suffering for my sins upon the cross. Having tasted the agonies of hell and death, You rose again from the tomb. I believe that You ascended to the Father's right hand in heaven, and that You will return to judge the world in righteousness.

I believe in the person and renewing power of the Holy Spirit. I rejoice, O God, to be part of Your Holy, Baptized, Apostolic, Universal and Reformed Church. I rejoice in the forgiveness of my sins and the fellowship of your people. I believe in your promises of bodily resurrection and everlasting life. Amen.

PRAYERS

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen.

HYMN 3

THE SERMON

HYMN 4

THE BENEDICTION

Now the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.



HYMN 1

A SAFE stronghold our God is still,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He'll help us clear from all the ill
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The ancient prince of hell
Hath risen with purpose fell;
Strong mail of craft and power
He weareth in this hour;
On earth is not his fellow.

2 With force of arms we nothing can,
Full soon were we down-ridden;
But for us fights the proper Man,
Whom God Himself hath bidden.
Ask ye, Who is this same?
Christ Jesus is His Name,
The Lord Sabaoth's Son;
He, and no other one,
Shall conquer in the battle.

3 And were this world all devils o'er,
And watching to devour us,
We lay it not to heart so sore;
Not they can overpower us.
And let the prince of ill
Look grim as e'er he will,
He harms us not a whit:
For why? his doom is writ;
A word shall quickly slay him.

4 God's Word, for all their craft and force,
One moment will not linger,
But, spite of hell, shall have its course;
'Tis written by His finger.
And though they take our life,
Goods, honour, children, wife,
Yet is their profit small:
These things shall vanish all;
The city of God remaineth.

Martin Luther, 1483-1546;
tr. by Thomas Carlyle, 1795-1881

See also Methodist Hymn Book, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983), 661.
All word scans from *Christian Hymns* (Evangelical Movement of Wales, 1977).

HYMN 2

HOW sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary rest.

3 Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding-place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy Name
Refresh my soul in death!

John Newton, 1725-1807

See also Methodist Hymn Book, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983), 257.

HYMN 3

LIKE a river glorious
Is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious
In its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth
Fuller every day;
Perfect, yet it groweth
Deeper all the way.

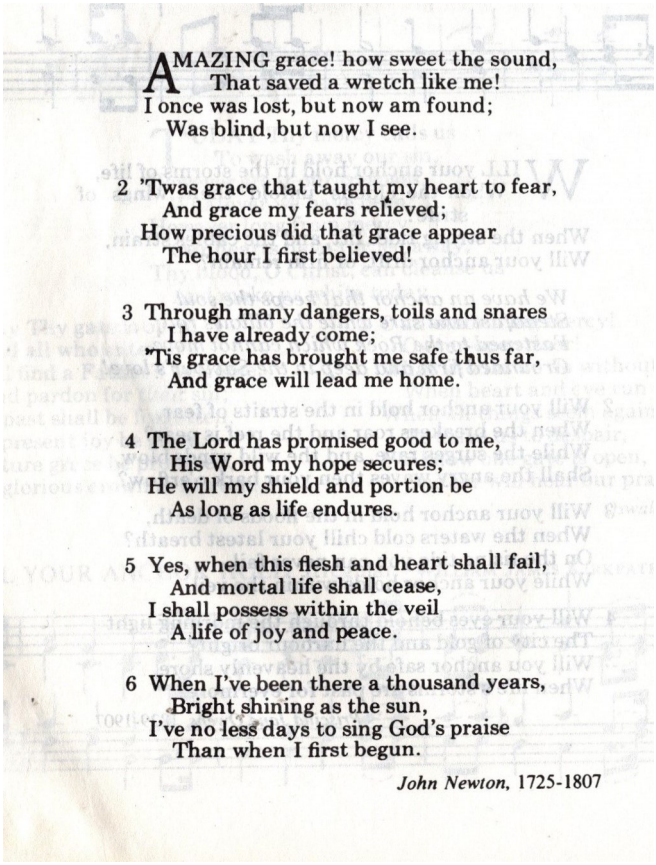
Stayed upon Jehovah
Hearts are fully blest,
Finding, as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.

2 Hidden in the hollow
Of His blessèd hand,
Never foe can follow,
Never traitor stand;
We may trust Him fully
All for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly
Find Him wholly true.

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79

See *Christian Hymns* (1977), 652.

HYMN 4



AMAZING grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

6 When I've been there a thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
I've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when I first begun.

John Newton, 1725-1807

See also Methodist Hymn Book, *Hymns and Psalms* (1983), 215.

BIBLE READINGS

(New King James Version)

Psalm 51:1 A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me.
4 Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight -- That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.
5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.
6 Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will make me to know wisdom.
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.
9 Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.
14 Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, *And* my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.
15 O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.
16 For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it;* You do not delight in burnt offering.
17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart -- These, O God, You will not despise.
18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 18:

9 Also [JESUS] spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men -- extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.
12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'
13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'
14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 2:

1 And you *He made alive,* who were dead in trespasses and sins,
2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,
7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

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https://english-reformed-church.co.uk
dralancclifford@gmail.com