

150



1873

St. Michael's Church, Galleywood

2023

Sunday 31st December at 10 AM

Morning worship

Heirs with Christ

welcome and opening

MP1045

**From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.**

**King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel.**

**Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;**

**And with a shout our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.**

**Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!**

Stuart Townend

Sheila – The Lord's my shepherd
MP 1008

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.**

*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
For your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

**He guides my ways in righteousness,
And he anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.**

And I will trust in you alone.....

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For you are with me, and your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.**

And I will trust in you alone.....

(Stuart Townend)

Confession

O God, you search us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned.

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we make no room for Christ,
and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we follow shooting stars
and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we seek to cut down those
who might rise above us,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we sanitise your birth place
and erase from memory the poor and displaced,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth,
and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

We turn to you, O Christ,
perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

**We renounce evil;
We claim your love;
We choose to be made whole.**

'Laughingbird' Australia

Assurance of forgiveness

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins.

That we may behold the glory of His Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect for first Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Beryl - MP589: See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw

See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw,
A draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore;
The Prince of glory is His name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;*

*Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

Angels, sing the song that you began,
Bring God's glory to the heart of man;
Sing that Beth'lem's little baby can
Be salvation to the soul.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

Mine are riches, from Your poverty,
From Your innocence, eternity;
Mine, forgiveness by Your death for me,
Child of sorrow for my joy.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem,
To see the Lord appear to men;
Just as poor as was the stable then,
The Prince of glory when He came.*

Michael Perry

Reading 1 Ann M

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the Lord. ^[a]

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,

⁶ and he established them for ever and ever –
he issued a decree that will never pass away.
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² young men and women,
old men and children.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.
¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,^[b]
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.

Daniel - Cornerstone MP 1334

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But, wholly trust in Jesus' name
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But, wholly trust in Jesus' name

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace

In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
Repeat

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all,
Repeat

Verses Edward Mote , additional words Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan and Eric Liljero

Reading 2 Ann M
Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Fiona: Sermon
Heirs with Christ

MP 51
Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, Thou my true word
I ever with Thee, Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle Shield, Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my Dignity, Thou my Delight;
Thou my soul's Shelter, Thou my high Tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, after victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God the Father
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!
You are worthy, Our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honour, and power for you created all things.**

**We believe in God the Son
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory
and praise!
With your blood you have purchased us for God,
From every tribe and language and people and nation.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit
The Spirit and the Bride say "Come". Even so, come, Lord Jesus**

Intercessions: Daniel

The 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.**

Offering Prayer

Notices

Family News

Hymn MP 735

1 We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!

We go not forth alone against the foe;
strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,
we rest on thee, and in thy name we go;
strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,
we rest on thee, and in thy name we go.

2 Yes, in thy name, O Captain of salvation!

In thy dear name, all other names above:
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
our Prince of glory and our King of love,
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
our Prince of glory and our King of love.

3 We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,
and needing more each day thy grace to know:
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
"We rest on thee, and in thy name we go";
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,
"We rest on thee, and in thy name we go."

4 We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!

Thine is the battle, thine shall be the praise;
when passing through the gates of pearly splendour,

victors, we rest with thee, through endless days;
when passing through the gates of pearly splendour,
victors, we rest with thee, through endless days

Edith Gilling Cherry

Final prayer and benediction

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from before us.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. Amen

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