

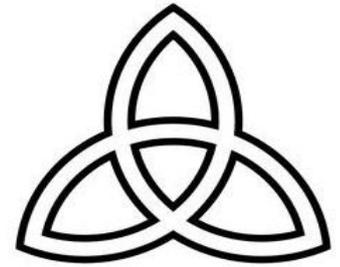


Highcliffe and Bransgore **Methodist Churches**

Sunday 7th June, 10:30am, Trinity Sunday

Prepared by Rev'd Phillip Dixon

This written worship has been prepared for you to use as we gather in separate places but united in love for our Lord Jesus Christ. Knowing that other people are sharing in this worship with you in their own homes is an encouragement to us and brings us closer together. We continue to be in the glorious season of resurrection and as a resurrection people our proclamation is:



Good morning church!

Opening Prayers:

We gather this morning in the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

All-encompassing God, may we experience Your presence this day as we gather in our homes, join us and make us of one-accord with our spiritual family, our brothers and sisters in Bransgore, Highcliffe and beyond, along with those who have gone before us and are with You in heaven. Distance separates us from each other but we give thanks that You join us by Your Spirit. May the familiar fragrance and breath of Your peace, love, truth and power flow over us and through us.

We represent this morning Your creation, the nations and people of Your beautiful, perfect and diverse creation, men and women, young and old, from different cultures, different ethnic backgrounds, different experiences but united by faith in Christ Jesus. We represent the pain felt by all who grieve today, all who cry out

against injustice and prejudice. Lord, heal our lands and bring peace. **Amen.**

Proclamation: Each one of us is a living part of the ecclesia (the church), the “called out ones”, a people not a building, called by Almighty God to bring His gospel of peace, reconciliation and transformation to a hurting and corrupted world.

Hymn: StF 418 We have a gospel to proclaim Sing/read /pray /proclaim the words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-SPYAgCtkw>

We have a gospel to proclaim
Good news for men in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;

In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved, His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell That
we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Edward Joseph Burns (b 1938)

Prayer of confession:

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
righteous to forgive us our sins and to
cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

*if my people who are called by my name
humble themselves, pray and seek my face
and turn from their wicked ways, then I
will hear them from heaven and will
forgive their sin and heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14*

Loving and forgiving God, I confess to You
my errors, my pride, my self-reliance and
my lack of love for my brothers and
sisters. Your word says I must love You
and my neighbour as myself, I am sorry
for the times when that does not happen.
For the times when my good intentions
are not followed by my sacrifice of self.
Father forgive, Christ have mercy.

For the times when I have made being a
Christian a comfortable status, a
statement of attendance or belonging
instead of a way of living my life for You
and helping others to do likewise. Forgive

me for the times when I have not been a
good witness to others. **Father forgive,
Christ have mercy.**

For the times when I have believed that
salvation is something to be achieved, a
rule to be kept, a hoop to be gone
through or a hurdle to be jumped over
instead of a beautiful sacrificial gift that by
Your blood You freely give me. **Father
forgive, Christ have mercy.**

For the schemes and plans of man,
thinking that they will result in the growth
of our gatherings instead of prayerful
obedience and seeking Your will. For the
sins of our world, for the aggression, the
pollution, the racism, the greed and the
immorality. **Father forgive, Christ have
mercy.**

Pause

Father, I name the specific things for
which I come to You, asking Your
forgiveness.... **Father forgive, Christ have
mercy.**

*A time of silence to hear what the Lord
may be saying to us today.*

God of love and power, thank You for the
forgiveness and freedom You have given
me from my sins, heal and strengthen me
by Your Holy Spirit so that I may walk
today a path of righteousness with my
past life of sin behind me. I am reminded
that, as a believer, I am Your redeemed
child, bought back into relationship with
You for a price, the suffering and death of
my Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Grace is an unmerited gift to me
each and every day. I pray Your Holy Spirit
will fill me afresh today with miraculous
light, love and kindness so that I may
always reflect Your wondrous glory **Amen.**

Preparation for the reading of Scripture:

Lord, prepare our hearts for the reading of Your word, help us to understand the meaning of what we are reading, may Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words, come to us now. Amen

Reading: Galatians 1:1-12

Paul, an apostle – sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead – and all the brothers and sisters with me,

To the churches in Galatia:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: if anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human

origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

New International Version UK

A time to pause, read again, pray, and reflect.

Preaching notes:

These notes are complementary to the preaching on this passage that can be accessed on our YouTube channel, Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches, Sunday 7th June.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoF3pzV1QdM6DPfGUEAgp0g>

Paul is astonished that the Galatian churches are so quickly turning from the one true gospel of Jesus. These are churches (Antioch, Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe) that he and Barnabas have laboured over, prayed for and served unstintingly during a period of months and years (see Acts 11:26).

False teachers (known as Judaisers) were continuing their opposition to the true gospel of Jesus Christ as revealed to the apostle Paul. Note how Paul begins this letter; "Paul an apostle sent not by men...but by Jesus Christ and God the Father...and all of the brothers and sisters with me". Paul firstly establishes his authority as an apostle from God and from his fellow believers before "laying into" the Galatian churches.

Galatians dovetails so beautifully with the Acts of the Apostles, for example Acts 15:1 "certain men came down from Judea and taught the believers "unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses you cannot be saved"".

This matters because they are teaching that reliance in Christ alone is insufficient to achieve salvation. Paul reminds us that Jesus suffered and died on a Roman cross to redeem us, to rescue us from sin and bring us back from darkness and place us into God's glorious light. To start adding other conditions for salvation, like good works, adhering to laws, attending or participating in worship is not just "a different opinion" or "contrary to Paul's theology" it is completely false. Salvation -as the great reformers have echoed throughout our history- comes by faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone.

Paul is rightly outraged, "if anyone is preaching to you a (false) gospel...let them be under God's curse". Paul recognises that unless this matter is challenged and overcome it will be like a festering sore and will result in the miraculous spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth being halted. John Stott, the New Testament scholar, reminds us that false teaching left unchecked will cause severe trouble to the church (the people), "the churches greatest troublemakers (now as then) are not those (non-believers) outside who oppose it but those inside who try to change the gospel. It is they who trouble the church".

The gospel of Christ was not received by Paul from a training course, he did not even receive it from another believer. He makes clear to us it was revealed to him by Jesus Christ (see Acts 9). He is not trying to win favour or make himself or his cause popular, he is proclaiming the "gospel truth" – a phrase that we used to use to signify an incredibly special and pure truth. A higher level of truth.

In summary, Paul emphasises to us that we cannot and must not accept a diluted, weak or perverted gospel. I look forward to sharing with you in the coming weeks this ongoing message of freedom in Christ, a new redeemed life, becoming ever closer to God. Amen.

Let us pray:

Holy Spirit come powerfully into my life today, fill me afresh with Your supernatural love and power. Help me to be true to Your gospel and to be faithful and clear in my understanding. Thank you for Your revelation to the apostle Paul. Strengthen me to follow Your prompting and leading and not seek to please people through human schemes or ideas but to seek only Your Kingdom. Add to our number daily those who are seeking salvation in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and saviour. May we be a faithful fellowship of nurture and growth always living out the one true gospel . **Amen.**

Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell

SoF #1 Sing/read /pray /proclaim.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC5FfEavPM4>

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear His praise forth tell,
come ye before Him and rejoice!

The LORD, ye know, is God; indeed,
without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto
praise, laud and bless His name always
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The LORD our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore
from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen

William Kethe (d. 1594)

We pray together our 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.**

Prayers of Intercession:

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 6,7 TLB.

We offer our prayers for others to the God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, already present in every place, already bringing good out of every evil, already holding in love every person:

We hold in our prayers those who feel surrounded by chaos at this time... Lord, give calm. We hold in our prayers those who walk in the valley of the shadow of death... Lord, give light.

We hold in our prayers those who are oppressed by violence and war... Lord, give peace.

We hold in our prayers those who seek to lead our communities, our nations and our world... Lord, give wisdom.

We hold in our prayers those who find it hard to believe, who struggle with doubt... Lord, give courage.

We hold in our prayers those with whom we try to share the Good News of your love... Lord, give grace.

We rejoice in your promise to be with us always, to the end of the age, as we commend all those for whom we pray into the care of our Three-in-One God. **Amen**

Jill Baker

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him. Genesis 1:20 NKJV

God of justice, in your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception. Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being. Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family. Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviours, and speech which demean others. Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change. Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history. And fill us with courage that we might seek to

heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen**

Contributed by Maggie Hussey

We continue to pray for those most affected by the current pandemic. God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through Him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We close with a modern version of Amazing Grace by Chris Tomlin. A song that emphasises Paul's plea to the Galatians that it is grace alone, and that from God Himself, that has set them free from sin and redeemed them, allowing them to have the close and loving relationship with Him that was intended at creation. This is the message of the one, true gospel, from God, revealed in Jesus Christ, and not from man. **Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) Chris Tomlin.**

listen/sing/read /pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Songwriters: Stan Roto Walker / Traditional / David Pritchard-blunt / Chris Tomlin / Louie Giglio

Blessing: Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous and be strong, run the race that is set before you, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith. May all that you do today and this coming week, be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Until we meet again, God bless. Phillip
01425 673350

phillip.dixon@methodist.org.uk YouTube links are external resources and are provided to help you engage with the songs. Singing the Faith resources are provided under license: CCLI 178182