



Highcliffe and Bransgore **Methodist Churches**

Sunday 21st June, 10:30am. Galatians part 3

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 as a family of faith in Jesus. Today is Father's Day, to dad's here and those here no longer, to dad's who were loving, encouraging, nurturing and fun and those who were not and could not fulfil God's special role for fathers. Happy Father's Day!

Opening Prayer:

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Loving God, we are joining with others this morning, joined by our faith, love and trust in You. Help us to remember that You are with us by the presence of Your Holy Spirit who we welcome with gladness into our homes. In this time of worship may our prayers be faithful and heartfelt, may our praise be with sincere gratitude and may our listening to what You say to us through Your word be with eagerness. Minister to us this morning Lord as we raise our voices in praise of Your name and for all that You have and continue to do. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Proclamation: For now that you have faith in Christ you are all sons (daughters) of God. All of you who were baptised "into" Christ have put on the family likeness of Christ. We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28 blended between J.B. Phillips and TLB.

Hymn: StF 99 All creatures of our God and King Sing/read /pray /proclaim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07cdsw6>

All creatures of our God and King
Lift up your voice and with us sing
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou, burning sun with golden beam
Thou, silver moon with softer gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest man both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) translated by William Henry Draper (1855-1933)

Song: King of Kings Sing/read /pray
/proclaim the words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5IcFWiEpg>

In the darkness, we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Reprise

And the morning that You rose
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come

To the Father are restored
And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

*Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

Praise forever to the King of Kings.

Songwriters: Jason Ingram / Brooke Ligertwood / Scott Ligertwood

Prayer of confession:

Remember Lord, your compassion and mercy, which you showed long ago, Do not recall the sins and failings of my youth, In mercy remember me Lord, Because of Your goodness.
Psalm 25. 6-7

Let us pray:

Loving and generous God, we come before you as we recognise our own faults and failures.

We find it so easy to be carried along with the tide of popular interests and forget to look to you for guidance and leadership. We become critical and judgmental of those you have called us to love, instead of offering the unconditional love of Jesus.

Forgive us when we put our own interests before the needs of other. We pray for strength and perseverance in times of temptation and look to you for direction every day.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayers and forgive us.

We pray loving Father that, as you look upon our world, that you will forgive the pain and hurt we cause each other. We build barriers between those who come from different backgrounds; for the colour of their skin, for those whose faith and cultural are different to ours. We pray for forgiveness for those who abuse that which you have created and call good. We pray that you will warm our cold heart to love as You love.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayers and forgive us.

Father we ask for your forgiving love for those who turn away from knowing you and your Son Jesus Christ. So many of your people carry out their lives in denial of all you do for them day by day. We ask forgiveness for those who use your name in vain without recognising that you are creator of all that they possess. Help us to lead them and ourselves into a knowledge that your Son Jesus Christ died to give us all life in all its fullness.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayers and forgive us.

In a time of quiet, ask God to forgive you of that which separates you from Him and those you share your life with.....

As we ask for forgiveness let us hear the words of grace. **Our sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

God of love and power we in humility, recognising your great love for us, thank you for your forgiving love for all that separates us from You and each other. Help us, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, to have lives full of care, kindness and generosity to those we meet, so we may reflect the love of Christ. **Amen**

Deacon Glenda Sidding

Preparation for the reading of Scripture:

Lord, prepare our hearts like fertile and prepared soil for the reading of Your Word, help us to understand the meaning of what we are reading and how You are speaking to us through it. May Your Holy Spirit, who inspired these words, come to us now in power and truth. Amen

Reading: Galatians 3: 26- 4:7

It is through faith that all of you are God's children in union with Christ Jesus. You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.

But now to continue—the son who will receive his father's property is treated just like a slave while he is young, even though he really owns everything. While he is young, there are men who take care of him and manage his affairs until the time set by his father. In the same way, we too were slaves of the ruling spirits of the universe before we reached spiritual maturity. But when the right time finally came, God sent his own Son. He came as the son of a human mother and lived under the Jewish Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, so that we might become God's children.

To show that you are his children, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who cries out, "Father, my Father." So then, you are no longer a slave but a child. And since you are his child, God will give you all that he has for his children. Good News Translation

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 21st June.

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

Paul continues to develop his central argument that it is faith alone in Jesus Christ by which we are saved from the outcome we deserve as a consequence of our “separated from God” (sinful) nature. Remember, that what is at stake here for the Galatian churches (and for us) are not small points of interpretation or style but essential eternal life and death questions and answers to: who is Christ, what did He come for and what difference does His coming, death and resurrection make to me. Paul is echoing the Gospel of John in which we hear “as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” (John 1:12).

To be “in Christ” is to be part of the family of Christ, to be a much-loved son or daughter of God, highly favoured, cherished and importantly, redeemed. Paul is making clear to those who have been influenced by the “wrong Gospel” that the only way to be a child of God, to be able to call Him Father is through faith in Jesus Christ, to be “in union through baptism” with Christ. Not by the Law. John Stott put this point well when he says “God is the universal Creator, He is the universal King of Kings, ruling and sustaining all that He has made. But He is

the Father only of our Lord Jesus Christ and of those He adopts into His family through and in Jesus Christ”.

Christians must make no distinctions between each other; misogyny, radical feminism, racism and bigotry are totally anti-Christian. It does not mean that differences do not exist, we celebrate the way God has made us different, the beauty in diversity, but in Christ differences no longer divide us and we make absolutely no preference based on them. We cry, “we are all one in Christ”.

As if all that wasn’t amazing enough, Paul continues with even more breath-taking revelation to the Galatians. Without Christ, no matter what our family connections, where we live, our education or our sophistication, it amounts to nothing unless we accept God’s offer of redemption through Jesus Christ. Paul explains the Gospel truth that Christ coming for us is a rescue mission with a difference, it is also a restoration and rightful inheritance mission and for those who accept it, the adoption into God’s family and a coronation in God’s Kingdom (see 2 Timothy 4:8). So much of Paul’s Spirit inspired writing is “more than” language, it is woven particularly into Romans, Ephesians and here in Galatians as he explains the gift of grace in Jesus.

“No longer a slave” are the very words that someone caught in slavery longs to hear every minute. Paul is talking of a metaphorical slavery, a slavery of fear, of ideas, concepts and philosophies that hold us back from fully accepting Christ into our hearts. We are free, adopted by God and we celebrate the truth of His promise to be our good, good Father. **Amen.**

Personal Prayer:

Holy Spirit come powerfully into my life today, help me to know with certainty that with I am Your child, fill me afresh with Your supernatural love and power. **Amen.**

Song: Who You say I am

Read /pray /proclaim the words.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n_4

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me?

I was lost but He brought me in

Oh His love for me

Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free

Oh is free indeed

I'm a child of God

Yes I am.

Free at last, He has ransomed me

His grace runs deep

While I was a slave to sin

Jesus died for me

Yes He died for me

In my Father's house

There's a place for me

I'm a child of God

Yes I am.

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.

Heavenly Father we pray you will keep us under the shadow of your mercy, in these difficult times of uncertainty and distress, sustain and support us especially when we are anxious and afraid, we praise you that nothing can separate us from your love.

We pray for all those at this time who are ill or feel isolated, in their darkness be their light ,we pray that you will surround them with your arms of love and hold them and keep them safe.

We pray for all our hospital workers and medical researchers give them wisdom and resilience as they seek to care for the sick and find treatments and vaccines from COVID 19.

We pray for the children who are returning to school facing many changes, we pray particularly for your protection on our local schools at Brangsgore and Highcliffe, and for all schools in every area, help the teachers as they seek to teach and encourage the children in their groups and be with parents as they seek to home school their children.

We pray for our leaders and medical advisers, give them wisdom as they seek to safely ease lockdown restrictions to try and bring some normality back to life and get the economy running again.

We pray for our friends and family as we start to be able to see them again , we pray for all those in our churches as they make decisions for the future, for Pauline our Superintendent Minister and for our ministers and local preachers, we pray especially for Phil our minister at this special time guide, and lead him we pray.

For those who we know personally, suffering at this time, through illness, grieving, loneliness, despair and anxiety, we name them now and ask that they be comforted.....

Heavenly Father we praise you that you hear our prayers and commit them to you in the name of Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

Worship Leader Jenny Hutchings

Blessing: Be blessed in Christ Jesus, as a child of God receive every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord **Amen**

Notices:

Thank you for those who have registered to take part in our forthcoming on-line weekly discussion group. I'm sure it will be a time for us to bless one another by sharing and learning together. The first sessions will begin on Monday 29th at 11am, Wednesday 1st at 7pm and Friday 3rd at 2pm. Those who have let me know that they wish to take part will receive an email with the Zoom meeting code/link, it will be the same for each session but I will send it to you each week on the Friday

evening preceding the upcoming weeks session. It is not too late to let me know that you would like to take part- just send me an email. If you think you've got prayer "covered", perhaps you can help someone who hasn't. For those not on Zoom or email but are interested in participating in some other way please let me know by telephone and I will help you with some resources. Also, our plan is to run an "in-person" course when social distancing allows.

We give thanks for the life of Vera Lynn, forever the forces sweetheart.

St Marks at Highcliffe have a team making cloth face coverings, if anyone would like to volunteer to help please let me know. And I will put you in touch with them.

I have been asked about my "Reception into Connexion", is this the same as "Ordination"? No, it is one part of what is a two-step event which traditionally has both Reception and Ordination to be done in the same day. My "Reception" on Saturday 27th at 6pm is a recognition that following much testing, my call to ministry is now accepted and celebrated by the Methodist Church. Ordination, the process of the laying on of hands, has to be done physically and will follow at some point in the future when restrictions ease. My Reception into Connexion will be livestreamed on the Methodist website <https://www.methodist.org.uk/> and follow the links to the 2020 Conference. Please join me if you can.

Until we meet again, God bless. Phillip
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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
