



Good morning and welcome to this morning's service. Two phrases I hear a lot are "strange times" and "a new normal". People ask how are you coping in these strange times? Is this the new normal?

Over the last few months we have been thrown from our familiar way of doing church. Simple things have become difficult, other things have been impossible. As society tries

to gradually open up, we may well have to find new ways of doing things, it may be a long time before church is the way we were used to, indeed some things will never be the same.

I was struck by words in Ecclesiastes – about a time for everything –

A time to plant a time to uproot; a time to knock down and a time to build up, a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to be silent and a time to speak...

Perhaps the challenge we have is knowing what this strange time is for, and I think part of our challenge is to do what we can – phone someone, pray for someone, engage with church through the e-worship and prayer material sent out, to keep in touch.

The coffee tree re-opened this week. Miriam has worked hard to create a safe environment for people to meet. If you are able to get out it would be an encouragement to the team and we'd love to see you.

What we do in these times will be different for all of us

Song

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship your holy name

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever
lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship his holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
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Jonas Myrin | Matt Redman

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You're rich in love and you're slow to anger
Your name is great and your heart is king
For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Read Amos 2:6–8, 5:14–15 & 21–24 Song

Read Amos 9:5–11

Teaching

- Identify one example of what you would regard as bad practice in relation to exploitation and/or corruption of justice and/or declining moral standards and determine how you may be able to act to bring about good/change for the better.
- In considering what God is saying through Amos, how might this affect my/our lifestyle(s) e.g. how much money I tithe, what clothing suppliers I use, how much I recycle, how many flights I take for holidays.
- John Stott wrote, *'We also accept the distinction between necessities and luxuries, creative hobbies and empty status symbols, modesty and vanity, occasional celebrations and normal routine, and between the service of God and slavery to fashion. The point is that simple living is not incompatible with carefree enjoyment'*. Do you agree with this statement? If so, how might that affect the way you organise your life?



O Lord, the clouds are gathering
The fire of judgment burns
How we have fallen!
O Lord, you stand appalled to see
Your laws of love so scorned
And lives so broken

(chorus) Have mercy, Lord,
Forgive us, Lord,
Restore us, Lord
Revive your church again
Let justice flow
Like rivers
And righteousness like a never failing stream

O Lord, over the nations now
Where is the dove of peace?
Her wings are broken
O Lord, while precious children starve
The tools of war increase
Their bread is stolen
chorus

O Lord, dark powers are poised to flood
Our streets with hate and fear
We must awaken!
O Lord, let love reclaim the lives
That sin would sweep away
And let your kingdom come
chorus

Yet, O Lord, your glorious cross shall tower
Triumphant in this land
Evil confounding
Through the fire your suffering church display
The glories of her Christ
Praises resounding!

Have mercy, Lord,
Forgive us, Lord,
Restore us, Lord
Revive your church again
Let justice flow
Like rivers
And righteousness like a never failing stream

Graham Kendrick

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Song

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

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Prayer

Amos 5:11 *I will restore David's house that has fallen to pieces. I'll repair the holes in the roof, replace the broken windows, fix it up like new.*

Pray for people, places or situations that need repair and restoration.

Pray for yourself, that the things we are learning will take root and produce fruit.



Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace
Amos 5:4

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

2 Thessalonians 3:16