

duke street church e-worship

Happy New Year!

Sunday 3rd January 2021

Welcome & prayer

New Year is traditionally a time for looking back, taking stock and then looking forward and that's what we're doing in today's service which is a compilation of some elements from previous e-worship services together with some reflections for the New Year from the Leadership Team.

Lord, as we look back on a difficult year, we pray that you will remind us of the good things that have happened, the things you want us to remember, to learn and take forward. And as we look forward into this New Year we pray that you will give us patience, fortitude and hope for the months ahead, with the assurance that you are with us. Amen

Reading: Psalm 40 redux

(Redux means brought back, revived and this is a contemporary re-working of Psalm 40 by Carla Grosch-Miller.)

I quieted my worried, despairing heart
and I waited.

The Holy drew near.

I felt myself drawn to a single point;
all of life collapsed into a timeless moment.

(I breathed.)

Desolation dissipated.

When I arose, I stood on solid ground.

My self recollected, a song of praise erupted
from my throat,
a new song, born of heaven and rooted in
earth.

A song of joy. A song of gratitude.

Happy are we who find ourselves in God,
who wait and listen,
who set aside distraction
and see behind the surface satisfactions.



Nothing can compare with the eternal
glimmer,
with the whole held in tender hands.
Depths and heights clasp glory;
a whisper of wonder binds all in all.

An opened heart is the divine desire,
not thoughtless obeisance.
Attentive presence is all I have to give,
and all You want.

I open the book of my days
that You may write Your story
in the lines of my life.

The flow of ink is smooth and pleasing;
even sorrow and disappointment reveal
the goodness of Your guiding hand.



You have become my delight,
as it is meant to be.

May my testimony ring true
in the ears that hear it.
May my song strike joy
in the hearts of those who catch the
harmonies.

May my flesh-made-Word be seen
to reveal Your purpose:
the blessing of all that lives.

Mercy abounds, steadfast love uplifts
and justice springs up where the faithful
walk.

I stumble; my heart fails within me.
I remember: Your grace saves me.

Nothing can separate the heart turned
towards God
from her salvation.

Again I turn: you are life and breath to me.
My back toward those who would denigrate
and dismiss me,
I grasp your goodness with both hands
and pledge my loyalty and my love.

May all who seek You find You.
May all who love You sing You.
As for me, in my weakness and my need,
give me the patience of overwintering seed,
that I may quiet my restless heart,
turn,
wait,
and prepare to receive You.

Song: How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art how great Thou art

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home what joy shall fill my heart
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God how great Thou art

Prayer (based on *How Great Thou Art*)

Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of this world. Thank you for all the amazing things that you have created and for the privilege we have of experiencing them all.

Help us to remember that you are so much bigger than anything we're going through at the moment. You are bigger than coronavirus. You are bigger than the uncertainty, you are bigger than our fears.

Lord, we thank you for the beauty of this world and for the birds singing in the trees. We thank you, too, for the times when we can get out and see the woods and the forest glades.

Father, thank you that you are looking down on us and protecting us all. Give us the strength to look up, see you, and find peace

We are reminded that you have already been through the pain of sending your Son to protect us, giving us a certain hope of a future without pain, suffering and fear.

We ask, Lord for forgiveness for those times over the past week that we have thought ill of others, or we have put ourselves before those in need. Help us to use this time to reflect on how we support our neighbours and charities that will need our aid.

Father, we thank you for the certain hope that we have, that you will come again. We know that this period shall pass, but that you will still be there to guide and to comfort us.

Amen

New Year Reflections from the Leadership Team (see separate sheets)

Communion

We invite you share communion, remembering that the sacrifice of Jesus brings us new life. While you may be doing this alone, there are many others, both in our church and across the country celebrating at this very moment.

At this table we celebrate
God's goodness



Song: King of My Heart

Let the King of my heart
Be the mountain where I run
The fountain I drink from
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the shadow where I hide
The ransom for my life
Oh He is my song

You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh
You are good good oh

Let the King of my heart
Be the wind inside my sails
The anchor in the waves
Oh He is my song
Let the King of my heart
Be the fire inside my veins
The echo of my days
Oh He is my song

You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down
You're never gonna let
Never gonna let me down

When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on
When the night is holding on to me
God is holding on

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Blessing

I ask the Father to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength
but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you
open the door and invite him in.

And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in
with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

Reach out and experience the breadth!

Test its length!

Plumb the depths!

Rise to the heights!

Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19 (The Message)