

Sunday 17th March 2024, 10:30am

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

Psalm 145:1-3

Opening Prayer

God my king, I will extol you

Bless your name forevermore
Every day, I'll sing your goodness
Hymn the greatness of the Lord
You are praised through generations
Of your works we'll always tell
We will praise your matchless goodness
Praise the God of Israel.

2 God is merciful and gracious
Slow to anger, rich in love
He is good to all his creatures
Showers blessings from above
All your works shall bless and thank you
Tell of all your mighty deeds
Celebrate your wondrous kingdom
You shall reign in majesty

3 Lord your throne will last forever
You will reign from age to age
You are faithful to your promise
You are kind in all your ways
You uphold the weak and falling
Give your strength to weary feet
From you hand you pour forth blessing,
Satisfy our every need

4 God is righteous to his promise
He is kind in all his ways
He is near to those who seek him
Yet the wicked casts away
He fulfils the good desire
Of his saints who fear his name
Let all people's praise his goodness
And forever sing his praise

Psalm 145, Matt Searles | Tune: Dim Ond Iesu

Confession of Sin

Lord God Almighty, our Maker, Sustainer and Righteous Judge, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, and before your holy law we are rightly condemned. Yet we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, every interest of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace, and everything that prevents us taking delight in you. Cleanse us from our sin, wash us clean in Jesus Christ, and help us to trust in his finished and accomplished work, and all for his glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:9-10

Prayer of Thanksgiving

'Tis finished! The Messiah dies,

Cut off for sins, but not His own:
Accomplished is the sacrifice,
The great redeeming work is done!
'Tis finished! All the debt is paid;
Justice divine is satisfied;
The grand and full atonement made;
God for a guilty world hath died.

2. The veil is rent in Christ alone;
The living way to Heaven is seen;
The middle wall is broken down,
And all mankind may enter in.
The types and figures are fulfilled;
Exacted is the legal pain;
The precious promises are sealed;
The spotless Lamb of God is slain.

3. The reign of sin and death is o'er,
And all may live from sin set free;
Satan hath lost his mortal power;
'Tis swallowed up in victory!
Saved from the legal curse I am,
My Saviour hangs upon the tree:
See there the meek, expiring Lamb!
'Tis finished! He expires for me.

4. Accepted in the Well-beloved,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
I see the bar to heaven removed;
And all Thy merits, Lord, are mine!
Death, hell, and sin are now subdued;
All grace is now to sinners given;
And so, I plead the atoning blood,
And in Thy right I claim Thy Heaven!

Charles Wesley 1707-88 | Tune: It is Finished

Children's Talk

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Intercession

Confession of Faith

Minister: What is your only comfort in life and death?

Congregation: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

Heidelberg Catechism 1

Christ, the sure and steady anchor

in the fury of the storm,
when the winds of doubt blow through me
and my sails have all been torn;
in the suffering, in the sorrow,
when my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor;
it shall never be removed.

2. Christ, the sure and steady anchor
while the tempest rages on,
when temptation claims the battle
and it seems the night has won;
deeper still then goes the anchor,
though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
it shall never be removed.

3. Christ, the sure and steady anchor
through the floods of unbelief;
hopeless somehow, O my soul, now
lift your eyes to Calvary.
This, my ballast of assurance;
see his love forever proved;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
it shall never be removed.

4. Christ, the sure and steady anchor
as we face the wave of death,
when these trials give way to glory,
as we draw our final breath;
we will cross that great horizon,
clouds behind and life secure,
and the calm will be the better
for the storms that we endure.

Ending

Christ, the shore of our salvation,
ever faithful, ever true;
we will hold fast to the anchor;
it shall never be removed.

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa © 2015 Getty Music Hymns & Songs

Prayer for Understanding of God's Word

Bible Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Sermon: Gospel Expansion Confirmed

O church, arise, and put your armour on;

hear the call of Christ, our captain.

For now the weak can say that they are strong
in the strength that God has given.

With shield of faith and belt of truth
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold, whose battle-cry is love,
reaching out to those in darkness.

2. Our call to war, to love the captive soul
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which he died,
an inheritance of nations.

3. Come see the cross, where love and mercy meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see his foes lie crushed beneath his feet,
for the conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see him.

4. So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize
of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of his grace,
we hear their calls and hunger for the day
when with Christ we stand in glory.

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend | © 2005 Thankyou Music

Benediction

Notices & Matters for Prayer

Welcome to Oxford Pres! Whether this is your first service with us, or you attend regularly, you are very welcome! Please stay for refreshments after the service and to spend time getting to know each other.

Babies and children: Please help yourselves to children's activity sheets and books from the welcome table. Nursing mothers and those with small children are welcome to use the small crèche area downstairs where the service is livestreamed – access is via the lobby to the right of the gallery.

Toilets: Baby changing facilities and a ladies' toilet are available downstairs via the crèche area.

Bring & Share Lunch: Everyone is welcome to stay after this morning's service to share lunch together.

Kids' Catechism Club: Primary school children are invited to join in fun and games run by our children's work team immediately after lunch whilst parents enjoy coffee and dessert.

Evening Worship, 5pm here at the North Gate Hall. Andy will be preaching from Exodus 20.

ReCon meets this Thursday from 7-9pm, here at the North Gate Hall. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Studies meet this Wednesday, 7.30-9.30pm and Friday 10-12pm, at Robin's house.

Youth Group meets this Friday 7.30-9.30pm at Robin's house.

Good Friday Service 5pm, Friday, 29th March, here at the North Gate Hall.

Good Friday Dinner Everyone is invited to our Good Friday Dinner from 6pm. [RSVP to Robin](#)

Please be responsible for your property and (parents) your children whilst you are with us.

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