

## Your hand, O God, has guided

your flock, from age to age;  
your faithfulness is written  
on history's every page.

They knew your perfect goodness,  
whose deeds we now record;  
and both to this bear witness:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

2. Your heralds brought the gospel  
to greatest as to least;  
they summoned us to hasten  
and share the great King's feast.  
And this was all their teaching  
in every deed and word;  
to all alike proclaiming:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

3. Through many days of darkness,  
through many scenes of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard the nation's life.

Their gospel of redemption-  
sin pardoned, man restored-  
was all in this enfolded:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

4. And we, shall we be faithless?  
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?  
Shall we evade the conflict  
and throw away the crown?  
Not so! in God's deep counsels  
some better thing is stored;  
we will maintain, unflinching,  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

5. Your mercy will not fail us  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us,  
the victory shall be won.  
And then by earth and heaven  
your name shall be adored;  
and this shall be their anthem:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

Edward H Plumptre 1821-91

## Benediction

### Notices & Matters for Prayer

**Welcome** to Oxford Pres! Whether this is your first service with us, or you attend regularly, we offer you a warm welcome. Children's activity sheets and crayons are available on the welcome table. A crèche/feeding room with toilet & baby changing facilities is available downstairs via the lobby to the right of the gallery. Refreshments will be served immediately after the service

**Sunday Evening Worship at 5pm** Andy will be preaching from Exodus 22 – please join us!

**Thursday Home Groups** meet this week from 5:30-7:30pm at the Atipaldis' (South) and 7-9pm at the Robin's (City) to discuss this week's sermon and pray together. Everyone is invited!

**Youth Group** meets this Friday from 7:30-9:30pm at Robin's house.

Please be responsible for your property and (parents) your children whilst you are with us. If you wish to be added to the church email list, please speak with Alberto or Andy.

www.oxfordpres.co.uk | CCLI 1588630

\*QR code for  
online  
giving:



Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 10:30am

## Welcome & Notices

### Call to Worship

Kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendour is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 148:11-14

### Opening Prayer

#### Let all creation's wonders and countless angel hordes

unite in ceaseless worship to praise the Lord of lords:  
he spoke, and formed the cosmos; he set the stars in place;  
his voice defines the contours of interstellar space-  
let sun and moon extol him and every planet sing;  
across the constellations let alleluias ring.

2. From far beneath the oceans let joyful songs arise,  
while hail and wind and lightning toss psalms across the skies.  
You beasts of farm and jungle, let nature's hymn be heard;  
tell out your maker's greatness, each insect, every bird;  
you peoples and you rulers, acknowledge him as King-  
from every generation let alleluias ring.

3. So let us lift our voices for all that we are worth  
to God whose timeless splendour surpasses heaven and earth:  
in love he chose and called us, a people of his own,  
and gave to us a Saviour to make his mercy known.  
His name alone we honour; our lifelong praise we bring;  
from deep within our spirits let alleluias ring!

Martin Leckebusch © 2001 Kevin Mayhew | Psalm 148 | Tune: Thaxted

### Call to Confession

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:8-10

## Confession of Sin

Righteous and Sovereign God, you are good, patient, kind and longsuffering. Save us from ourselves - from the deceits of sin; from the treachery of our fallen natures; from our denying your charge against our offences; from lives lived in rebellion against you. We confess that our thoughts, affections, desires, and pursuits, are alienated from you. O King of our lives, do not cast us into destruction, or drive us from your presence. Rather, wound our hearts that we may be healed. Break us so that in your own hands we may be made whole. Help us to receive the gift of Jesus Christ and to walk in him, depend upon him, commune with him, and be conformed to him. Perceiving nothing in ourselves, may we find in Christ wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Amen.

*Adapted from The Valley of Vision – A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*

## Assurance of Pardon

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Who has held the oceans in his hands?

Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at his voice;  
all creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God, seated on his throne,  
come, let us adore him.*

*Behold our King: nothing can compare,  
come, let us adore him!*

2. Who has given counsel to the Lord?  
Who can question any of his words?  
Who can teach the one who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

3. Who has felt the nails upon his hands  
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave:  
Jesus, Saviour risen now to reign!

Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, Stephen Altrogge  
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## Children's Talk

## Collection of Tithes and Offerings\*

## Prayer of Intercession

## Sung Confession of Faith

### What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.  
What is our only confidence?  
That our souls to him belong.  
Who holds our days within his hand?  
What comes, apart from his command?  
And what will keep us to the end?  
The love of Christ, in which we stand.

*O sing hallelujah!  
Our hope springs eternal;  
O sing hallelujah!  
Now and ever we confess  
Christ, our hope in life and death*

2. What truth can calm the troubled soul?  
God is good, God is good.  
Where is his grace and goodness known?  
In our great Redeemer's blood.  
Who holds our faith when fears arise?  
Who stands above the stormy trial?  
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh  
unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

3. Unto the grave, what will we sing?  
'Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!'  
And what reward will heaven bring?  
Everlasting life with him.  
There we will rise to meet the Lord,  
then sin and death will be destroyed,  
and we will feast in endless joy,  
when Christ is ours for evermore.

Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Matthew Merker © 2020 Getty Music | Based on the Heidelberg Catechism

## Prayer for Understanding of God's Word

## Bible Reading: Acts 15:36-16:5

## Sermon: Christ's Care of the Church