

Traditional Home service Sunday 7th June Trinity

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory: holy is your name, Lord God almighty. In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away, and to cleanse our lips to speak your word, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs: Let us sing to God with thankful hearts. Open our lips, Lord: and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (see page 2)

READINGS - Isaiah 40:28-31

TALK (see page 3)

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

THE 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.

HYMN 2 (see page 2)

CONCLUSION

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

466 Henry Francis Lyte.

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN;

To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing?
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Stuart K. Hine.

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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 power 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!

Peter Smethurst's talk - 7th June

(Isaiah 40:28-31)

I was delighted when I saw that the Isaiah 40 passage that Linda read was one of the readings for today.

I think the vast majority of Christians are encouraged by these words which is probably why they appear on so many wall plaques, posters, paintings and desk sculptures that are sold by Christian bookshops.

I don't know if anyone has ever tried to compile a top ten of Bible verses loved by Christians but if they did I'm sure that John 3:16 would be number 1 and this passage would be somewhere in the top five. It's a message designed to lift and encourage us.

There are difficulties in this life that can overwhelm the strongest people. The worldwide pandemic has seen the generation of fear the like of which probably has not been seen since World War II with the difference being that back then people clung to one another for support and encouragement.

Even people who were not regular churchgoers would go to church to relieve their fears but today's situation is unprecedented insofar as all places of worship have been closed for many weeks now.

Fear that is left unchecked quickly becomes hopelessness that gnaws at even the most self-reliant, outgoing and dynamic personalities. Even before we knew what a pandemic was there have always been circumstances in life that can be too big for us to handle.

Everyone, even the young and strong can grow faint and weary. They stumble and fall because they rely on their own, inner strength and human resources, - which are just not sufficient to shield them from the storms of life.

I was 26 when I discovered that my inner strength and resources were not a sufficient to keep me from going under in the storms of life. But it can happen to you at any age.

Only power from above is sufficient to sustain and strengthen us. Only Father God's protective hand can shelter us from the storms of life.

Isaiah gave Israel repeated warnings of approaching punishment, if they did not repent of their evil ways, but they would not listen. Even so the Lord is a God of comfort and grace. He gave Isaiah this message for us all to encourage us to stop looking to inward strength the external evidence and instead to look to Him in times of need.

HE is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He never gets tired or weary, He never slumbers or sleeps, and HE understands everything. HE is the one who gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

AND the key to accessing this strength and power is given in verse 31 when it says that only those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They are the ones who will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31 is translated in a number of ways in different translations of the Old Testament: "those who hope in the Lord" ... "Those expecting God" ... "Those who wait for the Lord" ... And "those who trust in the Lord".

The Hebrew word that is translated as hope, wait and trust is "KAW VAW" means "to bind together (perhaps by twisting) ... to expect; gathered together, look, patiently wait for..."

When I read that it could mean "those who bind together with the Lord will renew their strength" it reminded me of

Jesus saying that we should put on His yoke - to consciously fasten ourselves to Him in such a way that where He goes we go.

When we are yoked to Jesus He does all the heavy lifting as long as we remain fastened to Him.

Jesus said that his Father is greater than He was and that He and the Father were so in tune that they moved as one.

Jesus only said and did the things the Father said and did and He said that when we, his followers, had that same relationship with Him it would be as if we were in Him. He went on to say that He was in the Father and Father would be in us we would all be so entangled together that we would be inseparable.

We would all be bound together, or twisted together, in such a way that it would be NATURAL for us to be always doing the same thing that we saw our Father doing.

Jesus was so used to this situation that He declared "I and the Father are one."

When we truly identify with Jesus and trust in His help alone for our journey through life, then God's strength will be made perfect in our weakness.

It is then that the wind of God will lift us up on eagles' wings and carry us through life's stresses and strain, in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Bible the same message is given in many different forms. We are told to live by faith and not by our senses.

To trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not to rely upon our own understanding.

When we admit our weakness and inabilities, and confessed that without Him we can do nothing of value, we will be enabled to draw from the bottomless well of His everlasting supply, and drink deeply from the living waters of our loving

heavenly Father's super-abundant provision.

When the marauding armies of Pharaoh were charging toward the children of Israel, hell-bent on annihilating them, Moses simply declared to the terrified Israelites, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord"

In such circumstances standing still is not inactivity or doing nothing. Standing still can be a posture of hope because it involves keeping your hope anchored on the person of Jesus and having a sure and confident expectation of good.

He will never leave you nor forsake you (see Heb. 13:5). And as you centre yourself, your thoughts, your beliefs, and your hopes on Him, He will lead you concerning what to do, just as He led Moses and the Israelites out of situation that their senses told them was hopeless.

When you find yourself in a hopeless situation, learn to see yourself bound together with the Lord — yoked to Him.

It is then that your spiritual battery will be regenerated and renewed by Jesus Christ's limitless power and you will be able to run in His strength.

Prayer

Loving Father we know that our strength can only be found in Christ.

Help us to trust implicitly in the power that only Jesus can give. We ask that you lift us above all the difficulties of life and strengthen us to run with patience and endurance the race that is set before us with our eyes fixed on Jesus, Who is our only source of strength and refreshment.
AMEN.