

Traditional Home service

Sunday 7th February

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning
cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in 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 (*Love Divine*)

READINGS - Isaiah 40.21-31
1 Corinthians 9.16-23
Mark 1.29-39

TALK

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 (*Now thank we all our God*)

CONCLUSION

May God, who gives patience and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ, so that with one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

HYMNS TO USE

1 LOVE DIVINE, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

1 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Psalter Hymnal (Gray), 1987

Jesus started his public ministry with the announcement "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

The Gospel is quite literally "good news"!

It's the good news about how the Word of God was conceived in Mary and was made flesh in order that Jesus could be born on earth as the son of man, in order to heal all those who were oppressed by the devil and his evil spirits. The Good News is that Jesus came to destroy the works of the evil one and we heard in today's gospel reading how Jesus,

full of the Holy Spirit and power following his baptism, went about healing the sick and casting out Demons.

We heard how people wanted Jesus to stay in Capernaum but he had been called to spread the GOOD NEWS throughout Israel.

Although Jesus travelled extensively for three years, preaching, teaching and destroying the work of the devil He was limited by His humanity to be in one place at one time. Towards the end of his first incarnation Jesus explained how it would be better for the disciples for him to leave them and to send His Holy Spirit to them.

In this way not only would he be with them all the time, throughout eternity, and that through the Holy Spirit He would empower them to do all the things that He had done whilst He had been with them.

Jesus submitted to the whipping post and then sacrificed himself upon the cross in order to take away the world's sin and sickness.

After His resurrection but before His ascension Jesus told his disciples: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with

new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

To make these things possible the Father sent the Holy Spirit to live in those who believed the Good News AND when the Holy Spirit was poured out "upon all flesh" those who believed the Good News and put their trust in Jesus' finished work on the cross where born again from above.

St Paul testified: **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.** The Greek word which we have translated as "salvation" means to rescue physically or morally – it means to deliver us from sickness and disease as well as from our sins.

It is both physical and spiritual healing that constitute the "Good News".

In his book "Christ The Healer" FF Bosworth said: "Before people can have a steadfast faith for the healing of their body they must be rid of all the uncertainty concerning God's will in the matter." We need to be aware that it is just as much God's will to heal the body as it is to heal the soul.

Until you know what God's will is concerning anything that you want there is nothing on which to base your faith. It is **knowing** the truth that makes us free. We need to know that sickness, pain and disease never come from God and it is God's will to heal us.

God's word says that He sent His Word – Jesus – and healed them.

When Jesus was explaining the parable of the sower (Luke 8:11) He said: **"The seed is the word of God."** And He described how given the opportunity Satan will come and steal the seed before it has a chance to germinate. In Luke 8:15 Jesus taught **"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."**

For sick people to know that it is God's will to heal them it is necessary for the "Seed" of God's Word to be planted in that person's mind and heart and it is not properly "planted" until it is known, received and trusted.

The seed is properly planted and watered by

meditation, repetition and confession.

In 1Corinthians 3:6 Paul said I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

It is worth emphasising that just as no sinner can become a Christian before he knows that it is God's will to save him it is just as necessary for those needing healing to know that it is God's will to heal them. We receive Salvation by faith – that is, by trusting the known will of God and being healed is being saved in a physical sense.

The prayer of faith that heals the sick must follow the planting of the "seed".

The GOSPEL tells us what God's will is. Matthew 8:17 says "He Himself took our sicknesses and carried away our diseases."

When we become enlightened our attitude towards sickness should be the same as our attitude toward sin.

Jesus, our substitute, bore both our sins and our sicknesses so that we might be delivered from them and we trust Him now for deliverance from BOTH.

We only believe for both salvation and healing on the authority of His Word.

In Mark 11:24 Jesus says: I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And Hebrews 10:36 says: You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

When we know and trust the promises of God deep in our spirits we can believe that our prayers are heard before we experience the answer.

Bosworth said that "God always fulfils his promises when he can get the right cooperation."

Proverbs 4:20–22 gives us comprehensive instructions on how to receive healing:

My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

The Word of God can only become health to either the soul or the body after it is heard, received and meditated upon. Notice that the Words of God our life only to those who "find" them.

If you want to receive life and healing from God then you need to take the time to find the words of Scripture that promise those results.

I have already mentioned that Matthew 8:17 says "He Himself took our sicknesses and carried away our diseases." I also like Isaiah 54:17 no weapon forged against you will prevail and Psalm 103 Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases but my favourite is from one Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Remember what Jesus said we had to do to produce a really good crop: hear the word, retain it and persevere!

Over the years I have learned a few different things that help me to water the seed of the Word.

I produce large printouts of scriptural confessions and hanging them up where I will see them frequently. That of courses of no value unless you read them on a regular basis – preferably out loud! In that way you are not losing sight of what God has said and letting God's Word penetrate deep into your heart. I also have a number of confessions on my iPhone and my computer so that I can confess what I believe regularly.

Last week's prophetic word included the following:

"My children, are you ready to go deeper? This year I long to bring you to new levels of maturity in relationship with me. I want you to experience the power I have entrusted to you. The days of being ministered to by only a chosen few leaders have passed: you will be able to minister to yourselves because the fullness of my Spirit has been poured out on you. You can lay hands on yourself and bring healing and deliverance. And you can prophesy over yourself. You are my sons and daughters; you are my priests. You know my voice and I trust you to do what I do."

I don't know about you but I found this to be a very inspiring Word.

Jesus told us that those who believed in Him would lay hands upon the sick and that they would recover. So when we need healing or deliverance St James would advise us to

become doers of the word and not just hearers of the word.

If you need healing I encourage you to put your hand on the part of your body that you want to be healed. Remind yourself that **He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world** and that the Word of God in you brings healing to your whole body. Then simply tell the symptoms to go in Jesus' Name - Jesus has authorised you to use his name and to take authority over anything that is coming from the enemy. To conclude simply say "thank you Jesus for taking away my sicknesses and my pain – by your wounds I have been healed."

All that remains is to continue to thank God for his never-ending love and grace. Amen

For those who are interested the following is one of the confessions that I keep on my phone and computer:

"Daily Reading":

I am happy and grateful that Jesus is the Lord of my life.

Sickness, disease and the devil have no power over me.

I am forgiven and free from sin and guilt.

I am dead to sin and alive to right relations with my Father.

Jesus carried all my sins and sickness in his body at the whipping post and on the cross and by his wounds I am healed and made both whole and righteous.

God sent his Word and healed me!

Father, because of Your Word I am an overcomer – more than a conqueror!

I overcome the world, the flesh and the devil by the blood of Jesus shed for me and the Word you gave me.

I have received Your abundant life through Your Word and that life flows to every cell, every joint and every organ of my body bringing healing and health.

Heavenly Father I will read your Word and listen carefully to what you are saying. I will then think about what you tell me until it becomes a part of me. Your Words are life and healing to my body, mind and spirit.

Like Moses my eyes will not dim and my natural gifts will not weaken with time.

I am blessed with good health, abundant energy, wisdom and a good memory.

No illness or evil will come near me or my family because You have given your Angels

to watch over us and to keep us safe and in health.

I refuse to allow sickness or sin to dominate my body because the life of God flows within me bringing healing and restoration to every cell and fibre of my body and mind.

I am the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives in me and permeates my spirit, soul and body with His Life so that I am filled with the fullness of God every day.

My body is in perfect chemical balance because I am alive with the Life of God and I forbid any malfunction in my body.

In Jesus name I instruct my body, all its organs and functions and all my bones and joints to work perfectly.

Please continue to encourage me in the Way! Amen."