

Traditional Home service

Sunday 15th January

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by
the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you; and raise me to newness of life; 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 (Lo! He comes with clouds descending)

READINGS - Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:10-18
John 1:29-42

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 (Hail, O once-despised Jesus!)

CONCLUSION

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts; 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 Lo! He comes with clouds
descending,
once for ev'ry sinner slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals his endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply
wailing,
shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

1 Hail, O once-despised Jesus!
Hail, O Galilean King!
You have suffered to release us,
hope to give and peace to bring.
Hail, O universal Savior,
bearer of our sin and shame;
by your merits we find favor:
life is given through your name.

2 Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins were on you were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
you have full atonement made.
Ev'ry sin has been forgiven
through the power of your blood;
open is the gate of heaven,
we are reconciled to God.

3 Jesus, heav'nly hosts adore you,
seated at your Father's side.
Crucified this world once saw you;
now in glory you abide.
There for sinners you are pleading,
and our place you now prepare,
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.

4 Worship, honour, pow'r, and
blessing,
you are worthy to receive;
loudest praises, without ceasing,
right it is for us to give.
Help, O bright angelic spirits,
all your noblest anthems raise;
help to sing our Savior's merits,
help to chant Immanuel's praise.

Sermon - Adrian Morton

John 1:29-42; 1 Cor 1:1-9; Is 49:1-7

Andrew - a heart captivated

I want us to look, particularly, at this reading in John's Gospel.

Its one of the accounts of the first disciples being called.

Though strictly speaking Jesus doesn't really call his disciples at this point.

Its more that they attach themselves to Him.

But its a great passage and I want to talk about 2 things this morning.

Firstly, about having our hearts captivated by Jesus.

Because I think that is what happened here.

And secondly, a normal outworking of that is to introduce others to this Jesus.

Which certainly happened here.

So in our reading, we hear how Jesus is coming towards John the Baptist, and we can presume a number of John's followers.

And John essentially points out Jesus as the one his followers should really be following.

He's the guy.

He's the one that the Spirit remained on.

He's the Son of God.

He's the one in whom your Hope should be.

They had a day to think about that.

Because it says the next day, Jesus was passing by.

Not coming towards them, but this time passing by.

Maybe being a bit more elusive....

And again John points him out...

"Look, the Lamb of God."

And this time, the two who were with him followed Jesus.

Its just an interesting image.

What did they do...

They obviously didn't immediately speak to Jesus.

The picture in my mind is that they were several paces behind.

A bit like you see in the movies when someone is getting followed.

Maybe they nonchalantly looked in shop windows if Jesus paused...

Maybe they weren't sure what to do. Maybe they were a bit nervous... what should we say to Him.

We don't know how long they followed before Jesus took the initiative.

It says, "Turning round, Jesus saw them following and asked, what do you want?"

Its a great question!

"What do you want?"

We should allow God to ask us that question.

Its kind of like Jesus was trying to tease out what really was going on in their hearts.

It was almost like he was saying:

"Are you really prepared for me?"

Do you really have any idea what I'm about, who I really am?

What it will cost you to follow me?

When we think about this exchange, I wonder whether it is similar for us.

We need someone to tell us about Jesus.

To tell us Who He really is.

Why he is significant.

Why we should follow Him, put our Hope in Him etc..

And then we need time to process that.

For these disciples it took a day.

For me I needed, if I remember, about 4 years.

I wish it had only taken me a day!

But we need that time before we are ready to find out more.

Their answer to Jesus question was a good answer!

“Teacher, where are you staying?”

In other words, we want to find out more. We want to spend time with you. We want to get to know you.

I’m sure Jesus in his heart said “Good answer!”

In the Corinthian reading it says:

“God, who has called you into fellowship with His son Jesus Christ.”

These two disciples were requesting just what God was offering. Fellowship with His Son.

They weren’t initially just wanting their problems solved. They weren’t requesting a new Ferrari... They wanted fellowship with Him.

These two disciples spent the day with Him.

And I want to suggest that their hearts were captivated by Him. Because of what comes next.

Which is that Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two... and the first thing he did was to find his brother, Simon and tell him. “We have found the Messiah... And he brought him to Jesus.”

But we’ll get to that...

Their hearts were captivated by Jesus...

<Talk about John Wyatt...
He works as a paediatrician in a top hospital in London and specialises in the baby special care unit.
He said he spends most of his work life trying to keep babies from dying.
He’s involved in many ethical bodies that discuss matters of life and death, euthanasia etc...

But what struck me was, being a bible believing Christian, how his faith was the solid framework for his work.
It provided a context for his work.

Ethical decisions about life and death, which he had to confront on a daily basis, were based for him on Biblical truth.

He was someone who’s heart had been captivated by Jesus, he was mentored by John Stott for many years, which probably helped as well.

But his heart had been captivated by Jesus and it affected all he did.

<Brennan Manning, who wrote the Ragamuffin Gospel said, “I have been seized by the power of a great affection.”>

When we understand His grace, his mercy, his love...

When we come to know that we have freedom from the past, a new purpose for today, and a sure Hope for our future, our hearts are seized by the power of a great affection....

<Get on fire for God and men will come and see you burn. Wesley>

So these two disciples, had heard about Jesus.

They made a move towards Him...
They wanted just what Jesus was offering... fellowship with Him.

At least one of these two disciples had their hearts captivated by God...

And a result of that was that Andrew went to find his brother, and brought him to Jesus.

If our hearts have been captivated by Jesus, then a normal outworking of that is to introduced other people to Him.

We will want other people we know to be equally captivated...

The disciple Andrew was really good at this...

He was an introducer...

Later in John, you’ll read how he introduced to Jesus the boy with 5 loaves and 2 small fish.

When Philip doesn't seem to know what to do with the Greeks, he brings them to Andrew who then takes them to Jesus.

And of course here with his brother... Come and see...
Come and meet the One who has captivated my heart.

When we talk about mission, we often talk about the need for the church to get out of our building and Go...

That's what Jesus said, Go.. into all the world...

And of course that is right and proper...

We need to be out there, in our work places, in our neighbourhood working to see the kingdom come, praying for the kingdom to come... etc

But there is also a place for 'Come and see'.

Come and see what Jesus is doing within our church.
Come and meet people who are gathering to worship...
Come and encounter the living Jesus

We should not under-estimate the gathered church being a witness to people.

Our worship should be a witness.

We can say come and see for yourself.

Come and see the Alpha course.
Come to this meeting...
Come to this course...

I think most people who come to faith have a friend who has invited them to something.. come and see...

Wouldn't it be great if we as a church had a culture of invitation.

Come to this place, where there is an atmosphere of faith.
Where the Spirit of God is moving.

Knowing they may encounter the risen Jesus.

And their life will be changed and transformed forever.

<Great stats...

Suppose 20 of us, who are followers of Jesus, invite one person this year and they are converted.

So each one of the 20 we invite become 20 followers of Jesus.

After 1 year that means there will be 40.

If you do the Maths... and those 40 do the same the next year.. and that goes on after 5 years there will be 640.

After 10 years - 20,480

We would need an extension...!

After 20 years - 20, 971, 520

After 25 years - 1, 342, 177, 280

All it takes is for each person it bring one soul to Christ each year.

Amen.