22nd November 2020



The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the **f**ellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all <u>And also with you</u>

Call to worship

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God. We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future. Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways. Guide our every move, Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy. Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right. Together, let us worship God!



Lighting the candle of peace for all whom we love and know

Abide with me

Youtube- "Abide With Me!".6 Apr 2014



<u>BYU-Idaho</u>

"Abide with me! fast falls the eventide, The darkness deepens. Lord, with me abide! When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me! Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day. Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me! I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r? Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Thru cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me!"



Prayer/ Lord's prayer

O God it is you who is there for us, when we go to sleep and as we awaken...It is you who casts an eye over us as we travel from place to place, and as the years go by and the setting of the sun, you remain at our side. Thank you for being the one who is at the very beginning of life and shall be at the end of our earthly existence.... You created the world and made it so beautiful. A garden of colour, of adventure and excitement, each corner we turn you are reflected in its majestic views. From the top of the mountain with snow covering peaks to the humidity of the rain jungle below, from walking along a beach searching for peace and tranquillity, to be rushing, being pushed and shoved, not having time to stop as we travel from here to there...always searching, not having time to stand still and reflect and see. In the middle of nowhere you can be found as you are in a busy street. Each foot step we take leaves its mark, you are there to guide our ways and lead us forward into the mystery of life. When we become lost, we can be found in you, Lord God it is you who created the largest to the smallest, from the loudest to the guietest, from the brightest to the dullest, from the most sensitive to the over powering. In you we can see all people, from all places, from different traditions and languages...in you we can be found as one. Forgive us for not being as adventurous as we could be, interested in what you are doing within the world and each other. How often we wish to stay in our comfort zones instead of following in the footsteps of you and experiencing the joys and wonder of faith...help us to be what we are not...and lead us forth in your name so that we can openly live out our faith without hesitation or doubt, may certainty in you shine forth and help us to share our faith with others, as we say the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ spoke, speak to our inner selves as we say the words...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Story

Errol Fynn was one of Hollywood's great heart throbs. Unhappily, success and adulation went to his head, he fell on bad times and fair-weather friends deserted him. Years after his days of fame, he met an old friend and fellow actor David Niven. To his surprise, Errol Flynn looked completely relaxed despite the many financial worries still hanging over him. David Niven asked him the secret of his serenity and, for this came over in writings about Hollywood memories. Errol Flynn's reply to David Niven . He had discovered a book-a great book, and he read it constantly. "Don't laugh if I tell you what it is", said Errol Flynn, David Niven promised, "It's the Bible," he answered. (The friendship book - 1977)

Ephesians 3:1-13

God secret plan revealed.

3¹⁻³ This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief.

⁴⁻⁶ As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board.

⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities.

 $^{8-10}$ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has

been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

¹¹⁻¹³ All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So, don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!



Take the World, But Give Me Jesus

Fountainview Academy is a Christian high school based in southern British Columbia, Canada, which holds Province of BC Ministry of Education accreditation. Students from all over the world are attracted to Fountainview because of its balanced approach to education. Each staff member is personally committed to the eternal success of every student, and together they strive for the highest standards in every respect.

Take the world, but give me Jesus,

All its joys are but a name;

But His love abideth ever,

Through eternal years the same

Oh, the height and depth of mercy! Oh, the length and breadth of love! Oh, the fullness of redemption, Pledge of endless life above!

Take the world, but give me Jesus, Sweetest comfort of my soul; With my Savior watching over me, I will sing though every storm.

Take the world, but give me Jesus. In His cross my trust shall be, Till, with clearer, brighter vision, Face to face my Lord I see!



Reflection

During the French Revolution, Madem de Custine, an aristocratic Lady, was seen on the stairs leaving the Court Justice in Paris, and at once a savage cry arose from the mob who pressed forward as if to lynch her on the spot. Uncertain whether to advance or retreat, she hesitated momentarily, and the people were just about to spring forward to seize her when an unknown woman in the crowd secretly pressed her hand. The woman was carrying a child in her arms, and now she gave it to Madame Custine with the words- "Return him to me at the bottom of the stairs." Protected by having a child with her, Madame de Custine was able to escape unhurt. She gave the baby back to its mother and she never knew her deliverer's name. But from those dark days of the French Revolution, this incident shines out.

Sounds a bit like a Christmas story...a child was born, and given to humanity to save the world...Here we are , we have not gone back to the French revolution, we will leave that history behind us, we are looking into a new day, a new time back in April as we headed into our second month into lockdown ...? Here we are all waiting as the world hangs on to see what Donald Trump will do now, will he continue to through his toys out of his pram, will he leave the White House giving the incoming President his blessing and good wishes..., !!! here we are today where we celebrate the good news of a coronavirus vaccine which we pray will be made available to all by this time next year, here we are today, a British diplomat rescues a drowning woman in China and the news report talks more about his colourful socks he wears....here we are today, Belgian racing pigeon New Kim sells for record £1.4m in mystery bidding war between 'Super Duper' and 'Hitman'- Two Chinese bidders, operating under theses pseudonym names, here we are today with the news the Vicar of Dibley is returning this Christmas and here we are today, here we are, together in church, as the numbers sore of deaths around the world because of the virus which has taken over our lives we are here together worshipping God.

Why are you here...you are the only one who can say why you come to church ... WHY are you here? Surely you know and that you are not just here by accident. GOD has a reason that you are here this morning....and it is far bigger than you or I will ever realize. HE has an incredible plan in mind for you being in church this morning, whether we are sitting at home listening to the service on cd, reading the copies I have emailed out or delivered or sitting in a pew...we are all the church together and God has planned where we are at this moment in time...with all that is happening in the world, from the most saddest of stories, people struggling so, with life from the coronavirus, to all the happy occasions which help to keep us sane...God has called us to church together.. Americas soon-to-be new President Joe Biden started his first day of business by going to church, wearing a light blue mask, attending his local Catholic church near his home in Delaware, being accompanied by his daughter Ashley and teenage grandson Robert, he went to worship, whereas some headed to what many will call there holy ground....the golf course...I am not trying to make a political statement here !!!

Today our reading comes from a letter Paul has written from a prison cell. Paul was a prisoner of Nero, he was jailed by the Roman government because of his message that Jesus died to save us **ALL**, for he is the corner stone of the church. And, from the jail cell, he was penning some of the words that would be the lighthouse for the church for thousands of years to come. Would we say that Nero was his jailer? Is Rome his confinement? NO! Paul is a prisoner of Christ..... He does not believe for one moment that Nero and Rome are in control of his destiny......He is a prisoner of Christ. In Paul's mind, because his whole life since his conversion was surrendered to the Lordship of Christ, never for one moment was he or his circumstances outside of the control of God. So, we may ask, why was he a prisoner? Isn't it obvious, God had a plan to build a church for Himself that included Jews and Gentiles......and he was using Paul's writings to be the instruction booklet. The book of the Ephesians, is for the eternal church of Jesus Christ, it tells us why we are here this morning....and every other time and place we get together to worship God.

It tells you the real reason that you should be here this morning.

It tells us what we must be together.

So, what is this mysterious revelation God has given to Paul for you and me, for us all.....? It is that as Jesus died, he lives not for only one section...the Jews...he is for us all... That we all will receive salvation when the time comes, and all the things we get wrong that are seen as sins are forgiven or go to church...for we are accepted, loved for who we are...God loves us, and he forgives all the things we get wrong....don't be like the person who told me, I don't sin, so I don't need to be forgiven... We as Christians recognize that, even though like all humans we have been created in the image of God, we fall short of what God expects of us and therefore we have sinned against him and have belittled his glory by treating the things that he made as more valuable than he is himself. And so the Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Today we are being told, while we may sin against God we are his people, that there in not one race better than the other.....throughout the old testament we are told Israel is God's chosen people, the revelation today is that in the writings of Paul, that we are all co-heirs, together with Israel, and so we do have the promise from God that He will be our God and we will be His people .For we are now part of the one body that brings us together. One Corinthians 12:27 says; "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it." The Jews and Gentiles are not only members of the family of God, but they are "heirs together." The Jews and Gentiles are "members together of the same body" meaning they are on the same footing with each other. Within the Bible, we who are Christian are described as not being merely isolated individuals, but a corporate body with many members, because we are all united to Jesus by faith. And it is because of this unity in Jesus, this corporate nature of Christianity, that the church exists. The church is not a building. It is not a structure of brick and mortar. The church is the assembly of people gathered to express that unity in Jesus and to worship Him. So, the Bible says, "Now you" - Christians - "are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Story - The Lonely Ember - A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the minister was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

So, coming together in various assemblies is essential to giving expression to the fact that Jesus died to create a united people, not just isolated Christian individuals. Why do you go to church? We worship in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The key point in all of this is that we are not to limit our worship to any particular day of the week. We are to rest in the Lord every day. We are to worship the Lord every day and to give thanks for the resurrection, and what Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us...Hope, not simply for today, this lasts into tomorrow and evermore...

In the name of the Father. Son and Holy Spirit Amen

O worship the King all Glorious above (Tune Hanover)

Youtube - O Worship the King all glorious above. •21 Jul 2016 Phamox Choral Music

O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing his power and his love! Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise. O tell of his might! O sing of his grace! Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

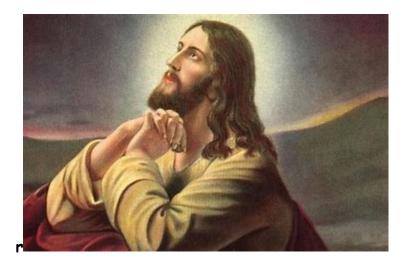
O measureless Might, ineffable Love, while angels delight to worship thee above, the humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall all sing thy praise.

Please give a wave to those who are near you, symbolising



'The Peace of Christ"

Intercession Prayer



Helping Others Poet: Kate Summers

Too often the world is full only about me Others need help and if only I would be More generous and caring for others Realizing at the end of the day we are all brothers.

We all have time to help another Rather than looking the other way and taking cover. It may be money, it may be time It all helps if only a dime. There is such a need in this world today To lend a helping hand is certainly a way We could give back instead of being greedy The world is full of people who are needy.

Many times it is not their fault Where they live is under assault And you never know when the day will come When you will need a helping hand and some.

So while the times are good for you Consider others in all you do Open your eyes and lend a helping hand There is much we can do, and so much demand.

You will find blessings come back to you And feelings of thankfulness will be true. You will impact the lives of others in a way That you may not realize, please help today.

Lord God we hear the words from the Bible that the Cross breaks down barriers and that we are all equal in you...reality is that within the world not everyone believe or follow the Words of Christ. We are told to love one another as we are brothers and sisters in Him, reality is we find this hard to do for we are not the same. We try to accept those who have hurt our feelings and made us upset. We are made of many emotions and they can overcome us at times especially when we should be turning the other cheek and learning to forgive. We are all made the same in your image, loving God, albeit we can be different. Each of us come from different back grounds, with not the same experiences. We do not look the same, our body types are different, our thoughts may not be similar and our desires can be poles apart. We speak not the same language, and do not live next door to each-other...Lord God help us to bring your creation together, where we can accept forgive and love each other in you. When we see those who are not the same and whom we struggle with, help us to offer our hand of friendship...Lord God there are so many things in life which separate us from one another...

We pray for those who are unwell and live with pain and a disability,

We pray for people who struggle with mental health issues and cannot see the brightness of the day,

We pray for people who live in a divided world because of their colour and language, or sexuality,

We pray for the young and old, for those who struggle with age and find it a barrier,

We pray for our homeless who are living out of a cardboard boxes, who search for a warm place to lay their heads, we pray for all who cannot afford to pay for rent, their mortgage, who have lost their jobs or living off their savings...credit cards and borrowingFor families who are struggling to survive seeing Christmas not as a blessing, rather a time of dread where they shall fall into a spiral of debt.

For families who cannot be together due to the regulations of not traveling, going into each other houses, visiting loved ones in hospitals and care residences due to isolation and lockdown procedures...

Lord there is so much that separates your creation from each other still today, break down we pray the barriers which separate us all...rich and poor, religion, race and colour, sexuality and language...help us to see more clearly that we are all the same in you, and loved equally...for in you we are no different than the other, we are all your children of God. In Silence hear our personal prayers we carry today.....In Jesus name bless our lives and that we have handed over to you. Make us rich in spirit, and acceptable to you...Amen.

A Mighty fortress is our God

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," however, is far and away the most well-known. Based on Psalm 46, the hymn is a celebration of the sovereign power of God over all earthly and spiritual forces, and of the sure hope we have in him because of Christ.

Youtube-<u>#virtualchoir</u> <u>#hymn</u> <u>#reformation</u> A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (Virtual Choir #4) •7 Dec 2019 This virtual choir piece features the performances of 176 singers and musicians from 34 countries, recorded individually and assembled by David Wesley into what you see and hear!



A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

- A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing;
 Our Helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
 His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.
- Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing;
 Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God's own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His Name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.
- And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us,
 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim,
 We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure,
 For lo! his doom is sure,

One little word shall fell him.

 That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.

Benediction

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen.



Joke time

Rhoda and Harry go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the 'Chicken Surprise.' The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot. Just as Rhoda is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down. 'Good grief, did you see that?' she asks her husband, Harry. He hadn't, so she asks him to look in the pot. Harry reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking around before it slams down. Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation. 'Please sir,' stammers the waiter, 'what you order?' Harry replies, 'Chicken Surprise.' 'Ah! So sorry, is mistake' says the waiter, 'I bring you Peeking Duck!'

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages.

'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!



<u>Enter as a Guest leave as Friends</u>

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Verse 1, Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways; reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the **f**ellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all <u>And also with you</u>

Call to worship

(based on Psalm 25)

We lift up our souls to you, Holy God. We trust the Lord with our past, present, and future. Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways. Guide our every move,

Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy. Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right. Together, let us worship God!





Morning has broken like the first morning Blackbird has spoken like the first bird Praise for the singing Praise for the morning Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven Like the first dewfall on the first grass Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight Mine is the morning Born of the one light Eden saw play Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning God's recreation of the new day

Prayer/ Lord's prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Verse 5. Breathe through the heats of our desire, thy coolness and thy balm; let sense be dumb. Let the flesh retire, speak through the earthquake, wind and fire, O still, small voice of calm !

Ephesians 3:1-13

God secret plan revealed.

3¹⁻³ This is why I, Paul, am in jail for Christ, having taken up the cause of you outsiders, so-called. I take it that you're familiar with the part I was given in God's plan for including everybody. I got the inside story on this from God himself, as I just wrote you in brief. ⁴⁻⁶ As you read over what I have written to you, you'll be able to see for yourselves into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God's Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I've been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board. ⁷⁻⁸ This is my life work: helping people understand and respond to this Message. It came as a sheer gift to me, a real surprise, God handling all the details. When it came to presenting the Message to people who had no background in God's way, I was the least qualified of any of the available Christians. God saw to it that I was equipped, but you can be sure that it had nothing to do with my natural abilities. ⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels! ¹¹⁻¹³ All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

Reflection

When a child is born

A ray of hope flitters in the sky A tiny star lights up way up high All across the land dawns a brand new morn This comes to pass When a child is born

A silent wish sails the seven seas The winds have changed whisperin' the trees And the walls of doubt crumble tossed and torn This comes to pass When a child is born

A rosy hue settles all around <u>You've got the feel you're on solid ground</u> For a spell or two no one seems forlorn This comes to pass When a child is born

{And all of this happens because the world is waiting Waiting for one Child , Black, white, yellow, no one knows But a Child that would grow up and turn tears to laughter Hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbour Misery and suffering would be forgotten forever}

> It's all a dream and illusion now It must come true, sometimes soon somehow All across the land dawns a brand new morn This comes to pass when a child is born.

Intercession Prayer

A mighty fortress is our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing. For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours, thru Him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill; God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever.

Benediction Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to: walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. Amen. Three- Fold - Amen

Jesus loves me

Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus love me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus love me! for the Bible tells me so.



JESUS LOVES YOU

