

# Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 29 March 2020

## **Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-5, ESV**

Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!

Praise befits the upright.

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

<sup>3</sup> Sing to him a new song;

play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

<sup>4</sup> For the word of the Lord is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

<sup>5</sup> He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

## **Hymn: Praise! 570**

Glorious things of you are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God!

He whose word cannot be broken  
formed thee for his own abode:

on the Rock of ages founded,  
what can shake your sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded,  
you may smile at all your foes.

2 See, the streams of living waters,  
springing from eternal love,  
well supply your sons and daughters  
and all fear of want remove:

who can faint while such a river  
ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord the giver  
never fails from age to age.

3 Round each habitation hovering  
see the cloud and fire appear  
for a glory and a covering,  
showing that the Lord is near:  
thus they march, the pillar leading,  
light by night and shade by day;  
daily on the manna feeding  
which he gives them when they pray.

4 Saviour, since of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in your name:  
fading are the world's best pleasures,  
all its boasted pomp and show;  
solid joys and lasting treasures  
none but Zion's children know.

*John Newton (1725-1807)*

## **Reading: Philippians 1:1-11, ESV**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

## **Hymn: Praise! 577**

The Church's one foundation  
is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation,  
by water and the word:  
from heaven he came and sought her  
to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her,  
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,  
yet one through all the earth;  
her charter of salvation –  
one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
one holy name she blesses,  
partakes one holy food;  
and to one hope she presses  
with every grace endued.

3 We see her long divided  
by heresy and sect;  
yet she by God is guided –  
one people, one elect:  
her vigil she is keeping,  
her cry goes up, 'How long?'  
and soon the night of weeping  
shall be the dawn of song.

4 In toil and tribulation  
and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation  
of peace for evermore:  
till with the vision glorious  
her longing eyes are blessed;  
at last the church victorious  
shall be the church at rest!

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5 Yet she on earth has union  
with those whose rest is won,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with God the Three-in-One,  
whose love has made them holy!  
Lord, grant to us your grace  
with them, the meek and lowly,  
in heaven to see your face.

*Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900)*

## **Prayer**

### **Hymn: Praise! 587**

Blessed be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
foreshadows that above.

2 Before our Father's throne  
we pour our fervent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,  
our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.

*John Fawcett (1740-1817)*

4 When for a while we part,  
this thought shall soothe our pain:  
in Christ we still are joined in heart  
and we shall meet again.

5 This glorious hope revives  
our courage on the way,  
while each in expectation lives  
and longs to see that day.

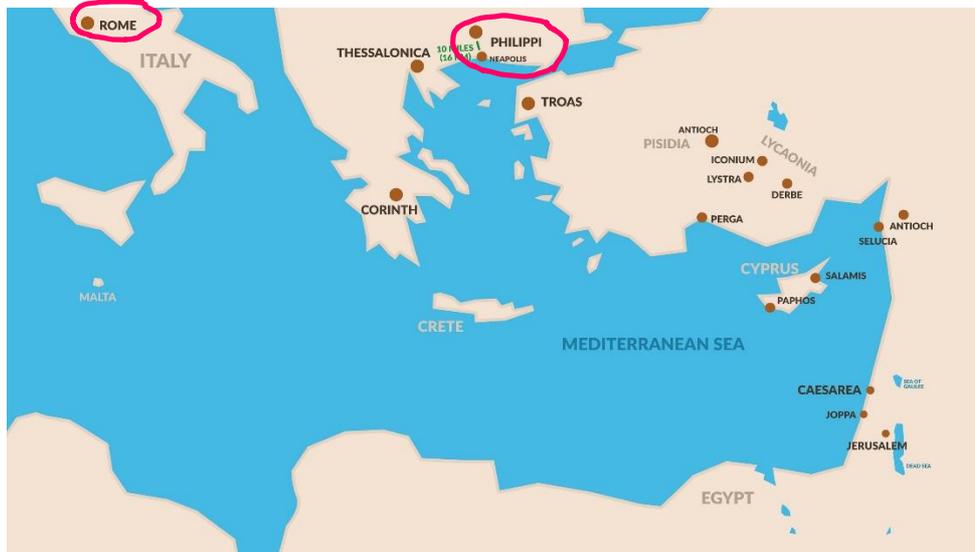
6 From sorrow, toil and pain  
and sin we shall be free,  
and perfect love and friendship reign  
through all eternity.

## Sermon: Philippians 1:3-6 – Joyful Thanksgiving

‘your partnership [fellowship] in the gospel’ (5)

### 1. Thankful Remembrance (3-4)

‘I thank my God in all my remembrance of you’ (3)



‘always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy’ (4)

‘Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice’ (4:4)

### 2. Thankful for Fellowship

‘for you are partakers [fellowshippers] with me of grace, both in my imprisonment, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel’ (7)

‘So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation [fellowship] in the Spirit...’ (2:1)

‘that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share in his sufferings [literally, the fellowship of his suffering]’ (3:10)

‘Yet it was kind of you to share [fellowship in] my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership [fellowship] with me in giving and receiving, except you only’ (4:14-15)

‘in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favour of taking part in the relief of the

saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us’ (2 Corinthians 8:2-5)

‘I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now’ (3-5)

### **3. Thankful Confidence (6)**

‘And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus.’

### **Hymn: Praise! 794**

Come, we that love the Lord,  
and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne.  
Let those refuse to sing  
who never knew our God;  
but children of the heavenly king  
may speak their joys abroad.

2 The God who rules on high  
and all the earth surveys,  
who rides up on the stormy sky,  
and calms the roaring seas –  
this awesome God is ours,  
our Father and our love;  
he will send down his heavenly powers  
to carry us above.

3 There we shall see his face  
and never, never sin;  
there, from the rivers of his grace  
drink endless pleasures in:  
and here, before we rise  
to that immortal state,  
the thought of such amazing bliss  
should constant joy create.

4 His children here have found  
glory begun below;  
and heavenly fruit on earthly ground  
from faith and hope may grow:  
then let our songs abound  
and every tear be dry;  
we’re marching through Immanuel’s ground  
to fairer worlds on high.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

*Canned music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPGqVAjISTQ>*