

# Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 18 October 2020

## Opening Prayer

### Hymn: Praise! 769

We trust in you, our shield and our defender:  
we do not fight alone against the foe:  
strong in your strength, safe in your keeping  
tender  
we trust in you, and in your name we go.  
Strong in your strength, safe in your keeping  
tender  
we trust in you, and in your name we go.

2 Yes, in your name, O Captain of salvation,  
in your dear name, all other names above!  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,  
our Prince of glory and our King of love.  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,  
our Prince of glory and our King of love.

*Edith G Cherry (1872-1897)*

3 We go in faith, our own great weakness  
feeling,  
and needing more each day your grace to know;  
yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,  
'We trust in you, and in your name we go.'  
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,  
'We trust in you, and in your name we go.'

4 We trust in you, our shield and our defender:  
yours is the battle-yours shall be the praise!  
When passing through the gates of dazzling  
splendour,  
victors, we rest in you through endless days.  
When passing through the gates of dazzling  
splendour,  
victors, we rest in you through endless days.

## **Reading: Acts 18:1-17, ESV**

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. <sup>2</sup> And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, <sup>3</sup> and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. <sup>4</sup> And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

<sup>5</sup> When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." <sup>7</sup> And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshipper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. <sup>8</sup> Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. <sup>9</sup> And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, <sup>10</sup> for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." <sup>11</sup> And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

<sup>12</sup> But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, <sup>13</sup> saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law."

<sup>14</sup> But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. <sup>15</sup> But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things." <sup>16</sup> And he drove them from the tribunal. <sup>17</sup> And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

## **Hymn: Praise! 765**

My times are in your hand;  
my God, I wish them there!  
My life, my friends, my soul, I leave  
entirely to your care.

2 My times are in your hand  
whatever they may be,  
pleasing or painful, dark or bright,  
as you know best for me.

3 My times are in your hand;  
why should I doubt or fear?  
A father's hand will never cause  
his child a needless tear.

4 My times are in your hand,  
Jesus, the crucified;  
those hands my cruel sins had pierced  
are now my guard and guide.

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5 My times are in your hand;  
such faith you give to me  
that after death, at your right hand  
I shall for ever be.

*William F Lloyd (1791-1853)*

## **Prayer**

### **Hymn: Praise! 754**

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;  
bear patiently the weight of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
through every change he faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your gracious, heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future as he has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the winds and waves still know  
the voice of Christ that ruled them here below.

3 Be still, my soul: the day is hastening on  
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are  
past,  
in his safe presence we shall meet at last.

*Catharina A D von Schlegel (b. 1697), translated by Jane L Borthwick (1813-1897)*

## **Sermon: Acts 18:1-17 – Refreshing God's Servants**

***'And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no-one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people' (9-10)***

*"A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he only cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies, whether he has health or whether he has sickness, whether he is rich or whether he is poor, whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence, whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish, whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise, whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame, for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it; he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in the burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him." (JC Ryle)*

1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom... I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling" (1 Corinthians 2:1-3).

"After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquilla, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks" (1-4)

"When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus" (5)

"Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptised" (8).

Ephesians 6:12, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

"For this reason God gave them up to dishonourable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done" (Romans 1:26-28).

Verses 9-10: “Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

### **1. Do Not be Afraid**

“Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles” (6)

1 John 4:18. “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”

### **2. Go on Speaking**

“And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Corinthians 2:2-4)

*“I have learned this repeatedly in my own life. When my strength is depleted, when my rhetoric is unpolished by human talent, when I am weary, the Lord has a much better tool for emphatic, sensitive communication. The barriers are down. When I know I can do nothing by myself, my poverty becomes a channel of his power. More than that, often when I feel I have been least efficient, people have been helped most effectively. It has taken me a long time to learn that the lower my resistances are and the less self-consciousness I have, the more the Word of God comes through.”* (Lloyd Ogilvie)

Hildebert of Lavardin: *“God is over all things; outside all; within but not enclosed; without but not excluded; above but not raised up; below but not depressed; wholly above, presiding; wholly beneath, sustaining; wholly within, filling.”*

### **3. Recognise that work for God is never in vain**

*“The Lord has a message for us: Do not be afraid. Stop borrowing trouble. Look to me! I love you. Keep ministering. Keep caring. Keep speaking my name. Inactivity will only imprison your fears. Believe that I am with you and that I will give you all the protection you need. Believe that your life will bear fruit – I promise.”* (R. Kent Hughes)

## **Hymn: Praise! 773**

A debtor to mercy alone,  
of covenant-mercy I sing;  
nor fear, with your righteousness on,  
my person and offering to bring:  
the terrors of law and of God  
with me can have nothing to do;  
my Saviour's obedience and blood  
hide all my transgressions from view.

2 The work which his goodness began,  
the arm of his strength will complete;  
his promise is 'Yes' and 'Amen',  
and never was forfeited yet:  
things future, nor things that are now,  
nor all things below or above,  
can make him his purpose forgo,  
or sever my soul from his love.

*Augustus M Toplady (1740-1778)*

3 Eternity will not erase  
my name from the palms of his hands;  
in marks of indelible grace  
impressed on his heart it remains:  
yes, I to the end shall endure,  
as sure as the promise is given;  
more happy, but not more secure,  
the glorified spirits in heaven.

## **Closing Prayer**