

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 25 October 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 593

Christ, from whom all blessings flow
to perfect your church below,
Christ, whose nature now we share,
work in us, your body here.
Join our faithful spirits, join
each to each, with yours made one;
lead us through the paths of peace
on to greater holiness.

2 Move and activate and guide;
varied gifts to each divide;
gladly may we all agree,
bound by loving sympathy,
never from our calling move,
needful to each other prove,
kindly for each other care,
all our joys and sorrows share.

3 Placed according to your will,
let us all our work fulfil,
great and small, oppressed or free,
all in Christ shall equal be.
Love, like death, has all destroyed,
rendered all divisions void;
factions, names and parties fall,
you, O Christ, are all in all.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Reading: James 3:1-12, ESV

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

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How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 860

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your wandering children, lost, alone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the stumbling and the straying feet;
and feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungry ones with manna sweet.

3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths that you impart;
and wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.

4 O fill me with your fulness, Lord,
until my heart shall overflow
in kindling thought and glowing word
your love to tell, your praise to show.

5 O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where;
until at last your face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Frances R Havergal (1836-1879)

Sermon: James 3:1-12 – On Blessing and Cursing

1. On Faith and Words – the Importance of Controlling the Tongue

2. Saltwater Paradox – the Impossibility of Controlling the Tongue

3. ‘No Human Being...’ – the Solution to Controlling the Tongue

Hymn: Praise 2! 22

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth
Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to
you

In surrender I must give my every part
Lord, receive this sacrifice of a broken heart

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?
Savior, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name for the things You have
done?*

*Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful
heart*

2 You deserve my every breath, for You've paid
the great cost

Giving up your life to death, even death on the
cross

You took all my shame away, there defeated my
sin

Open up the gates of heaven and have
beckoned me in.

Matt Redman

Hymn

We have heard the joyful sound:

Jesus saves!

Spread the tidings all around:

Jesus saves!

Bear the news to every land,
climb the steeps and cross the waves.

Onward! 'tis our Lord's command:

Jesus saves!

3 Give the winds a mighty voice:

Jesus saves!

Let the nations now rejoice:

Jesus saves!

Shout salvation full and free,
highest hills and deepest caves;

this our song of victory:

Jesus saves!

2 Sing above the battle's strife:

Jesus saves!

By His death and endless life,

Jesus saves!

Sing it softly through the gloom,
when the heart for mercy craves;

sing in triumph o'er the tomb:

Jesus saves!

Priscilla Jane Owens (1829-1907)

Closing Prayer