

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 15 November 2020

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise 2! 37

O church arise, and put your armour on;
hear the call of Christ our Captain.
For now the weak can say that they are strong
in the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth,
we'll stand against the devil's lies;
an army bold, whose battle cry is love,
reaching out to those in darkness.

2 Our call to war, to love the captive soul
but to rage against the captor;
and with the sword that makes the wounded
whole,
we will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on every side
we know the outcome is secure,
and Christ will have the prize for which He died,
an inheritance of nations.

3 Come see the cross, where love and mercy
meet,
as the Son of God is stricken;
then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
for the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
and Christ emerges from the grave,
this victory march continues till the day
every eye and heart shall see Him.

4 So, Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
give grace for every hurdle,
that we may run with faith to win the prize
of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
retelling triumphs of His grace,
we hear their calls, and hunger for the day
when with Christ we stand in glory.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

Reading: Acts 19:21-41, ESV

²¹ Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." ²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

²³ About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. ²⁴ For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. ²⁵ These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

²⁹ So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. ³⁰ But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. ³¹ And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theatre. ³² Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³ Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defence to the crowd. ³⁴ But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

³⁵ And when the town clerk had quietened the crowd, he said, "Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? ³⁶ Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷ For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸ If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. ³⁹ But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰ For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." ⁴¹ And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Prayer

Hymn: Praise 2! 81

Bless the Lord oh my soul

Oh my soul

Worship His Holy name

Sing like never before

Oh my soul

I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up

It's a new day dawning

It's time to sing your song again

Whatever may pass

And whatever lies before me

Let me be singing

When the evening comes

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

2 You're rich in love

And you're slow to anger

Your name is great

And your heart is kind

For all your goodness

I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons

For my heart to find

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

3 And on that day

When my strength is failing

The end draws near

And my time has come

Still my soul will

Sing your praise unending

Ten thousand years

And then forevermore

Forevermore

Bless the Lord oh my soul...

Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman

Sermon: Acts 19: 21-41 – When the Gospel Takes Hold

“gods made with hands are not gods” (26b)

“In the history of the church, the term revival in its most biblical sense has meant a sovereign work of God in which the whole region of many churches, many Christians has been lifted out of spiritual indifference and worldliness into conviction of sin, earnest desires for more of Christ and his word, boldness in witness, purity of life, lots of conversions, joyful worship, renewed commitment to missions. You feel God has moved here. And basically revival, then, is God doing among many Christians at the same time or in the same region, usually, what he is doing all the time in individual Christian’s lives as people get saved and individually renewed around the world.” (John Piper)

“Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver” (18-19)

“The word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily” (20)

1. Persecution often follows

“Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, ‘After I have been there, I must also see Rome’” (21)

“It is through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

“About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the way” (23).

Verse 26: “this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods.”

“In the world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33)

2. Lives are changed

Verses 28-34: When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. 30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. 31 And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theatre. 32 Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defence to the crowd. 34 But

when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

"When the Skeleton open subscription lists, brewers and publicans weighed in generously... one saloon keeper offered £1000. They took their name from the skull-and-crossbones banners they adopted, inscribed with strange legends – gorillas, rats, even Satan himself" (Richard Collier)

3. God strengthens his people

verses 29-31: So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theatre, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. 30 But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. 31 And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theatre.

Isaiah 26:3, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

"Only one life 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." (CT Studd)

Hymn: Praise! 281

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Before him angels fall,
before him angels fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

2 Crown him, you martyrs of our God,
who for his justice call,
who for his justice call;
exalt the one whose path you trod,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

3 Descendants of his chosen race,
redeemed from Adam's fall,
redeemed from Adam's fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love cannot forget
the bitterness and gall,
the bitterness and gall,
go, spread your offerings at his feet
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

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5 Let every people, nation, tribe,
on this terrestrial ball,
on this terrestrial ball,
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

6 O that in heaven, with this great throng,
we at his feet may fall,
we at his feet may fall,
join in the everlasting song
and crown him, crown him,
crown him, crown him,
and crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet (1726-1792) and John Rippon (1751-1836)

Closing Prayer