

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 10 January 2021

Opening Prayer

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 upon 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)

Reading: Acts 20:1-16, ESV

After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and

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Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵ These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third storey and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹ And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³ But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Hymn: Praise 2! 7

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all-in-all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

2 In Christ alone!—who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied—
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

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3 There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 776

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my God, should die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that you, my God, should die for me?

2 What mystery here! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the highest angel tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
What mercy this! Let earth adore;
let angel minds enquire no more.
What mercy this! Let earth adore;
let angel minds enquire no more.

4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

3 He left his Father's throne above-
so free, so infinite his grace-
humbled himself in all his love
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!
What mercy this, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
then shone your glorious gospel ray;
I woke! The dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off; my heart was new,
I rose, went forth and followed you!
My chains fell off; my heart was new,
I rose, went forth and followed you!

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5 No condemnation now I dread!
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own;
bold I approach the eternal throne
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sermon: Acts 20:1-16 – The Importance of Being Encouraging

“When he had gone through those regions and had given much encouragement, he came to Greece” (2)

1. The Encouragement of Fellowship

2. The Encouragement of the Lord’s Day

3. The Encouragement of God’s Power

Hymn: Praise! 775

All my hope on God is founded,
all my trust he shall renew;
he, my guide through changing order,
only good and only true:
God unknown,
he alone,
calls my heart to be his own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tower and temple, fall to dust;
but God's power
hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness lasts for ever,
deep his wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springing out of nought;
evermore
from his store
countless stars rise and adore.

4 Day by day the almighty Giver
grants to us his gifts of love;
in his will our souls find pleasure,
leading to our home above:
love shall stand
at his hand,
joy shall wait on his command.

5 Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done;
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son:
hear Christ's call,
one and all-
those who follow shall not fall.

Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), after Joachim Neander (1650-1680)

Closing Prayer