

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 24 January 2021

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 444

There is a fountain filled with blood
drawn from Immanuel's veins;
and sinners plunged beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.

2 The dying thief rejoiced to see
that fountain in his day;
and there have I, though vile as he,
washed all my sins away.

3 O Lamb of God, your precious blood
shall never lose its power,
till all the ransomed church of God
be saved to sin no more.

4 And since, by faith, I saw the stream
your flowing wounds supply,
redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die.

5 When this poor lisping, stammering tongue
lies silent in the grave,
then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing your power to save.

William Cowper (1731-1800)

Reading: Acts 21:1-16, ESV

And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ² And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. ⁵ When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed ⁶ and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

⁷ When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. ⁸ On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we

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entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹ He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰ While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

¹⁵ After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶ And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Hymn: Praise! 452

Yes, finished! The Messiah dies,
cut off for sins, but not his own;
completed is the sacrifice,
the great redeeming work is done.

Yes, finished! all the debt is paid,
justice divine is satisfied,
the grand and full atonement made:
God for a guilty world has died!

2 The temple curtain is torn down,
the living way to heaven is seen;
through Christ, the middle wall has gone
and all who will may enter in.

The ancient shadows are fulfilled,
the law's harsh sentence is applied,
the sinless Lamb of God is killed,
the covenant is ratified.

3 The reign of sin and death is done,
and all may live, from sin set free;
Satan and his pretended throne
are swallowed up in victory.

Saved from the curse of God I am;
my Saviour hangs upon a tree!
See there the meek and silent Lamb;
his final breath he breathes for me.

4 In Christ accepted and brought near
and clothed in righteousness divine,
I see the path to life made clear,
and all your merits, Lord, are mine.

Death, hell and sin are now subdued,
all grace is now to sinners given,
and so I plead the atoning blood
and by your gift, receive your heaven.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 258

'Great is thy faithfulness', O God my father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail
not;
as thou hast been, thou for ever wilt be.

*'Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy
faithfulness!'
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided-
'Great is thy faithfulness', Lord, unto me!*

Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960)

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Sermon: Acts 21:1-16 – How Can We Know the Lord's Will?

We and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done" (12-14)

1. The Importance of Prayer

2. The Revelation of Scripture

3. Knowing and *Doing* God's Will

Hymn

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine;
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Frances J van Alstyne (1820-1915)

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Closing Prayer