

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 25 April 2021

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 246

Great God of wonders, all your ways
are matchless, godlike and divine;
and the fair glories of your grace
among your other wonders shine.

*Who is a pardoning God like you,
with grace so free, so rich, so true?*

2 Such vile offences to forgive,
such guilty, reckless souls to spare:
this is your grand prerogative,
and in the honour none shall share.

Samuel Davies (1723-1761)

3 Angels and mortals, yield your claim
to pity, mercy, love and grace:
these glories crown our Saviour's name
with an incomparable blaze.

4 In wonder lost, with trembling joy,
we take the pardon of our God:
a pardon granted from on high,
a pardon sealed with Jesus' blood.

5 O may this strange, this matchless grace,
this godlike miracle of love,
fill all the earth with grateful praise,
as now it fills the skies above.

Reading: Acts 20:17-31, ESV

¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance towards God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not account my life

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of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.”

Hymn: Praise 2! 47

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

2 Teach us Lord full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

3 Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

Sermon: Acts 20:17-31 – Why Do We Need Elders?

1. Why Churches Need Elders (17, 28-31)

2. What Elders Are to Do (28, 31)

3. How Elders Are Made (28)

Hymn: Praise! 628

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Prayer

Hymn: Praise 2! 23

Lord, I come before your throne of grace;
I find rest in your presence
and fullness of joy.
In worship and wonder I behold your face,
singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'

*What a faithful God have I,
what a faithful God.
What a faithful God have I,
faithful in every way.*

Robert & Dawn Critchley

Closing Prayer

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to
flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

2 Lord of mercy, you have heard my cry;
through the storm you're the beacon,
my song in the night.
In the shelter of your wings hear my heart's
reply,
singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'

3 Lord all-sovereign, granting peace from
heaven,
let me comfort those who suffer
with the comfort you have given.
I will tell of your great love for as long as I live,
singing, 'What a faithful God have I.'