

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 16 May 2021

Opening Prayer

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.

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!

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Reading: 1 Timothy 3:8-13, ESV

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Reading: Acts 6:1-7, ESV

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. ² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Hymn: Praise! 340

Who can cheer the heart like Jesus,
by his presence all divine?
True and tender, pure and precious,
O how blest to call him mine!

*All that thrills my soul is Jesus;
he is more than life to me;
and the fairest of ten thousand
in my risen Lord I see.*

2 Love of Christ so freely given,
grace of God beyond degree,
mercy higher than the heaven,
deeper than the deepest sea.

Thoro Harris (1874-1955)

3 What a wonderful redemption!
Never can a mortal know
how my sin, though red like crimson,
can be whiter than the snow.

4 Every need his hand supplying,
every good in him I see;
on his strength divine relying,
he is all in all to me.

5 By the crystal-flowing river
with the ransomed I will sing,
and for ever and for ever
praise and glorify the King.

Sermon: 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-7 – Deacons and the Church

“For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Jesus Christ” (1 Timothy 3:13)

1. The Qualifications of Deacons

2. The Duties of Deacons

3. The Selection of Deacons (and Elders)

Hymn: Praise! 250

O father, you are sovereign
in all the worlds you made;
your mighty word was spoken
and light and life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons
and bounds the ocean’s shore,
sets stars within their courses
and stills the tempest’s roar.

2 O Father, you are sovereign
in human scheme and skill;
no powers of death or darkness
can thwart your perfect will.
All chance and change transcending,
supreme in time and space,
you hold your trusting children
secure in your embrace.

3 O Father, you are sovereign,
the Lord of human pain,
transmuting earthly sorrows
to gold of heavenly gain.
All evil overruling,
as none but Conqueror could,
your love pursues its purpose-
our souls’ eternal good.

4 O Father, you are sovereign!
we see you dimly now,
but soon before your triumph
earth’s every knee shall bow.
With this glad hope before us
our faith springs up anew:
our sovereign Lord and Saviour,
we trust and worship you!

Margaret Clarkson (1915–2008)

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 399

I have a friend whose faithful love
is more than all the world to me;
it's higher than the heights above,
and deeper than the deepest sea;
so old, so new, so strong, so true;
before the earth received its frame,
he loved me-bless his holy name!

2 He held the highest place above,
adored by all the sons of flame,
yet, such his self-denying love,
he laid aside his crown and came
to seek the lost, and at the cost
of heavenly rank and earthly fame,
he sought me-bless his holy name!

3 It was a lonely path he trod,
from every human soul apart;
known only to himself and God
was all the grief that filled his heart:
yet from his track he turned not back
till where I lay in want and shame
he found me-bless his holy name!

4 Then dawned at last that day of dread
when, desolate but undismayed,
with wearied frame and thorn-crowned head
he, now forsaken and betrayed,
went up for me to Calvary,
and dying there in grief and shame
he saved me-bless his holy name!

5 Long as I live my song shall tell
the wonders of his matchless love:
and when at last I rise to dwell
in that bright home prepared above,
my joy shall be his face to see,
and bowing then with loud acclaim,
I'll praise him-bless his holy name!

E A Tydeman

Closing Prayer