

# Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 18 July 2021

## Opening Prayer

### Hymn

Who has held the oceans in his hands?

Who has numbered every grain of sand?

Kings and nations tremble at his voice

All creation rises to rejoice

2 Who has given counsel to the Lord?

Who can question any of his words?

Who can teach the one who knows all things?

Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

*Behold our God, seated on his throne*

*Come, let us adore him*

*Behold our king, nothing can compare*

*Come, let us adore him*

3 Who has felt the nails upon his hands?

Bearing all the guilt of sinful man

God eternal, humbled to the grave

Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign

*Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird, and Stephen Altrogge*

### Reading: Acts 28:1-16, ESV

After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup>The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. <sup>3</sup>When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. <sup>4</sup>When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." <sup>5</sup>He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. <sup>6</sup>They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

<sup>7</sup>Now in the neighbourhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days. <sup>8</sup>It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him healed him. <sup>9</sup>And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also

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came and were cured. <sup>10</sup>They also honoured us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

<sup>11</sup>After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead. <sup>12</sup>Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. <sup>13</sup>And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli. <sup>14</sup>There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup>And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. <sup>16</sup>And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him.

### **Hymn: Praise! 774**

A sovereign protector I have,  
unseen, yet for ever at hand,  
unchangeably faithful to save,  
almighty to rule and command.

He smiles, and my comforts abound;  
his grace as the dew shall descend,  
and walls of salvation surround  
the soul he delights to defend.

2 Inspirer and hearer of prayer,  
both leading and guarding your sheep,  
I place in your covenant care  
my life, both awake and asleep;  
if you are my shield and my sun  
the night is no darkness to me,  
for, fast as my moments roll on,  
so nearer to you I shall be.

3 Creator and ground of my hope,  
to your name alone I shall bow,  
a new 'Ebenezer' set up  
to show 'God has helped us till now.'  
I think on the years that are past,  
when all my defence you have proved;  
nor will you relinquish at last  
a sinner so blessed and so loved.

*Augustus M Toplady (1740-1778)*

## **Sermon: Acts 28:1-16 – It's Coming Rome**

*"The following night the Lord stood by him and said, 'Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome'." (Acts 23:11)*

### **1. Promises Kept**

### **2. The Problem of Pain**

### **3. The Praise of God**

## **Hymn: New Christian Hymns 20**

My God, how wonderful Thou art,  
Thy majesty how bright!  
How beautiful Thy mercy-seat,  
in depths of burning light!

2 How dread are Thine eternal years,  
O everlasting Lord,  
by prostrate spirits day and night  
incessantly adored!

3 How wonderful, how beautiful,  
the sight of Thee must be,  
Thine endless wisdom, boundless power,  
and awful purity!

4 O how I fear Thee, living God,  
with deepest, tenderest fears,  
and worship Thee with trembling hope  
and penitential tears!

5 Yet I may love Thee, too, O Lord,  
almighty as Thou art;  
for Thou hast stooped to ask of me  
the love of my poor heart.

6 No earthly father loves like Thee;  
no mother, e'er so mild,  
bears and forbears as Thou hast done  
with me, Thy sinful child.

7 Father of Jesus, love's reward,  
what rapture will it be  
prostrate before Thy throne to lie,  
and ever gaze on Thee!

*Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)*

## **Prayer**

## **Hymn**

What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer;  
there is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
my steadfast love, my deep and boundless  
peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,  
for my life is wholly bound to his.  
O, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is  
mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

2 The night is dark but I am not forsaken,  
for by my side the Saviour he will stay;  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,  
for in my need his power is displayed.  
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;  
through the deepest valley he will lead.  
O, the night has been won and I shall overcome!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

3 No fate I dread: I know I am forgiven,  
the future sure, the price it has been paid;  
for Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated!  
Jesus now and ever is my plea;  
O, the chains are released; I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

4 With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
for he has said that he will bring me home;  
and day by day I know he will renew me  
until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,  
all the glory evermore to him;  
when the race is complete, still my lips shall  
repeat:

'Yet not I, but through Christ in me!'

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall  
repeat:*

*'Yet not I, but through Christ in me!'*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me!'*

*Michael Farren & Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson*

## **Closing Prayer**