

Bible Sunday Sunday 25th October

Welcome, everyone to Bible Sunday worship today.

Hymn

**How Lovely On The Mountains Are The Feet Of Him
Who Brings Good News, Good News
Announcing Peace, Proclaiming News of Happiness
Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns!**

**Waste Places Of Jerusalem Break Forth With Joy
We Are Redeemed, Redeemed
The Lord Has Saved And Comforted His People
Our God Reigns, Our God Reigns**

Leonard E Smith CCLI #4615709

Call to worship:

Let us worship God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Prayer of Preparation:

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may see your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

Penitential Rite

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in
penitence and faith....

For the times we have failed to proclaim your mighty acts.
To speak of your glory and majesty,
Forgive our silence.
Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

For the times we have been slow to follow
the example of Christ
Forgive our stubbornness and lack of trust
Christ have mercy **Christ have mercy**

You called us to be one people
Forgive our prejudices, our enmity, and divisions
and teach us to love as you love
Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord
Amen.

Gloria for today

Let us give glory to the Father, Through the Son
In the Holy Spirit,

**For God has made us his people,
And calls us to sing his praises.**

**Blessed are you, Lord God:
Blessed are you for ever.
Holy is your name:
Blessed are you for ever.
Great is your mercy for your people:
Blessed are you for ever. Amen!**

Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

1st Reading:

Colossians 3:12-17 (NIV)

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **15** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **16** Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response:

*Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me...*

*As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me...*

*Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth your word*

Lord, and let there be light

Graham Kendrick. CCLI #30426

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Your words are Spirit Lord and they are life

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia *Jn 6:63:68*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 24:30-35 (NIV)

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. **31** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. **33** Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. **34** Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. **35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon -

I remember my sister telling me when my niece, Lizzie, was very little - that she had been chewing her “Jesus book” in church! A rather disapproving lady had looked very

surprised when my sister had explained simply “ She is just digesting the word!!” And I think that is what we are called to do today - but in a much more grown up fashion!

The Bible - of course isn't just one book - it is a whole library of books specially gathered as the account of God's action in the world and his purpose with all creation.

This is the book through which as the Psalmist said:

“What God has done will be praised from one generation to the next; they will proclaim his mighty acts.”

Psalm 145

And which, like Timothy says:

“is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The bible contains the history and testimony that invites us to ask and answer Jesus question -

“Who do you say that I am?” Mark 8:29

Christians, as you know think of the bible as a very important book...

The Bible is this:

It is a storehouse of wonderful stories for children and grown-ups. Remember Noah and the ark? Joseph's coat of many colours? Daniel in the lion's den? Jonah and the

whale? Shadrach, Meshac and Abednego? The Exodus? The life and death and resurrection of Jesus..

And they are wonderful and entertaining stories that have made it to musicals and the big screen! In these stories we recognize the achievements and failures of ordinary people like us - reading them we may even learn something about ourselves!

The bible is a treasury of insight as to who we are.

We are the “fearfully and wonderfully made” creatures of a God who loves us and gives a purpose and destiny

God formed in the womb. (Psalm 139:1)

God made in his own image. (Genesis 1:27)

God has called by name. (Isaiah 43)

God has counted every hair on’s head. (Matthew 10:29-31)

God loves with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

Whilewas still a sinner, Christ died for him/her. (Romans 5:8)

When is broken hearted the Lord is close by. (Psalm 38:14)

Nothing can separate from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:39,39)

One day God will wipe away every tear from’s eyes. (Revelation 21:3-4)

Surely will dwell in God’s house for ever and ever. (Psalm 23:6)

The Bible is a sourcebook for everyday living - for living life to the full. In it we find standards for our conduct, guidelines for knowing right from wrong, principles to help us in a confused society where there are so many conflicting opinions.

At the end of the day, the guideline is love

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matt 22:37-40

The bible is a refuge in times of trouble. People in pain, in suffering, in prison, in mourning, tell how they turned to the Bible and found strength there in their desperate hours.

I just love that the printers of the Gideon bibles, for example, have gone to the trouble to make a list / an index of texts that might give help and comfort in all sorts of difficult situations - Addicted... afraidanxious.... Away from God.... Bitter.... Critical Depressed.... Desperate... and so on...

People in our society today tend to know the story of Christmas **really well!** The bit where Jesus is born and we all

get presents. And we know the story of Easter fairly well... Jesus dies and ... well we have school holidays and lots of chocolate. And Ascension and Pentecost we probably know less about and the rest ... well?

The bible tells us all about God's dealings with people ... about the kinds of people God managed to deal with and to work through... but more than that it tells us about God himself and his love for us.... The God to whom in our Eucharistic /thanksgiving prayer we pray:

“Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.” (Common Worship Prayer F)

The God who

.... “ so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3: 16

Offering “Life” - so full of good things - Do you have a bible? Do you read it regularly - with some published bible notes to help you understand? Do you pray through its pages? Is it pristine on a shelf - or thoroughly well leafed, searched through and battered - with a “lived in” look? Is it the first thing thrown in your case when you go away... Would you choose to take it onto your desert Island? Is it the script you live by and that you live in? Do you gossip what you find there? And is it the “Gift beyond price” that you would like to give to others.. in every place and every language?

Let us be those who take the bible in reverent hands and in awesome expectation saying:

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.”

Gospel acclamations: 1 Samuel 3.9; John 6.68

Response.

**Lord, thy word abideth, and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth light and joy receiveth.**

**When our foes are near us, then thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation, message of salvation.**

**When the storms are o'er us, and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth, and our way protecteth.**

**Who can tell the pleasure, who recount the treasure, by thy
word imparted to the simple-hearted?**

**Word of mercy, giving succour to the living;
word of life, supplying comfort to the dying!**

**O that we, discerning, its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee, evermore be near thee!**

Words: Henry Williams Baker

Our Declaration of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Christ died for our sins

**in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

**Intercessions: Prepared and led for us by Stephen Lines
from St Michael's Church, Shefford.**

Father God, we pray for the church that it may stand for truth and justice and may faithfully proclaim the Gospel in every age.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Everlasting God, you made a covenant with our ancestors and pledged them descendants more numerous than the stars. Grant that all people may share in the blessings of your covenant, accomplished through the death and resurrection of your Son and sealed by the gift of your Spirit.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Gracious God, help us to follow Paul's advice to the Colossians and 'Cloth ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Help us to bear with each other and to forgive one another if any of us has a grievance against someone. Help us to forgive as you forgive us and

remind us that over all these virtues we should put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity'.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Creator God, we pray for the peoples of the world that they may enjoy true justice whether they are poor or rich, great or small. We pray that those who use violence, persecution, fear or revenge may instead pursue your way through peace and reconciliation.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Holy God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has loosened our burdens and healed our spirits. We bring before you now those still burdened and those in need of your healing love.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Loving God, we pray for those who have died trusting that You will raise them to eternal life.

We ask you to grant peace and comfort to those who mourn.

Lord hear us. **Lord graciously hear us**

Father God, at the start of this new week, recognising your trust in us to live and share your Gospel, make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Notices and Birthdays

The BLESSING and SENDING

**Almighty God,
we thank you for the gift of your holy word.**

**May it be a lantern to our feet,
a light upon our paths,
and a strength to our lives.**

**Take us and use us
to love and serve all people
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

And let's bless one another in the words of the Grace:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
the Love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

be with us all evermore Amen

Final acclamation:

**Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith CCLI Song ID 3274952

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Draw a picture of one of your favourite Bible stories

People of the Bible

K	Q	F	Q	N	I	V	S	H	D	R	A	M	B	G
E	M	C	O	K	O	G	R	A	Z	N	X	L	M	H
E	V	P	Y	J	A	M	H	J	M	Q	E	Z	N	S
R	L	P	A	B	A	J	O	I	M	S	I	Z	D	T
S	S	M	R	N	B	Y	G	L	A	A	O	J	A	R
D	E	I	J	O	R	N	F	E	O	N	R	N	V	E
S	E	S	T	A	A	B	T	Y	U	S	H	Y	I	T
L	K	H	O	H	H	S	U	S	E	J	Y	Q	D	E
L	H	A	J	M	A	Q	W	T	U	E	H	Q	M	P
E	P	X	H	N	M	D	P	B	P	P	V	A	V	I
J	O	S	H	U	A	A	D	A	E	V	D	E	X	E
Z	H	R	M	J	U	K	W	S	U	A	C	D	X	A
J	O	H	N	L	T	T	O	W	E	H	T	T	A	M
U	L	H	T	U	R	J	G	B	N	P	D	L	P	C
T	Q	F	R	V	F	K	S	J	Y	J	T	T	O	I

ABRAHAM	ADAM	DAVID
ELIJAH	EVE	GABRIEL
JAMES	JESUS	JOHN
JOSEPH	JOSHUA	MARY
MATTHEW	MOSES	NOAH
PAUL	PETER	RUTH
SAMSON	SOLOMON	

 For God
so loved   
 the world that 
He gave His one
and only Son  
 that whoever 
BELIEVES
in **Him** shall not perish 
 but have **ETERNAL** 
     **LIFE.** 

John 3:16