

10.00 am Sunday Service



30 October 2022

Welcome - Sue

Prayer – Psalm 95

Holy, Creating, Creative God,
We sing from the depths of our sorrow.
We sing from the abundance of our joy.
We sing in voices separate and unique.
We sing with one voice as your body.
May the words of our mouths,
whether in speech or song,
and the meditations of our hearts,
whether in prose or poetry,
be pleasing in your sight. **Amen.**

Blessed Assurance - Sue

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 1:12

¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

Reading

Fanny Crosby, America's most prolific hymn writer, wrote 8,000 Gospel songs and hymns during a lifetime, which spanned nearly a century. Six weeks after her birth in 1820, a poorly trained doctor applied a mustard plaster poultice to her eyes rendering her totally blind. Even in her childhood, she realized she had a special gift. She often said, "I have a jewel - content."

During her 15th year, she entered the New York Institute for the Blind. Her record there was such that after graduation, she was asked to teach at the institute.

One day in 1873, Aunt Fanny was visiting with a friend, Mrs. Joseph Knapp, a musician of sorts and wife of the founder of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. During their visit Mrs. Knapp played a tune on her piano, which she had recently written. She then asked Fanny,

“What does this tune say?” After kneeling in prayer for a few moments, she rose and declared, “It says, ‘Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!’”

Aunt Fanny began to dictate verses to Mrs. Knapp, who wrote them down, fitting them to the melody just as we hear it sung today.

“Every day will I bless you; and I will praise your name for ever and ever.” -Psalm 145:2

Hymn: Blessed Assurance

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.**

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

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.

Puppets: You can tell the Lord that you love him

***You can tell the Lord that you love Him, anytime.
You can tell the Lord that you need Him, anytime.
Thank Him for His love and care.
Shoot Him up an arrow prayer.
You can tell the Lord that you love Him, anytime.***

In the middle of whatever
You're doin' at school.
At lunch when you're kickin' the ball.
When you're chasin' your mates all over the place.
You can talk to the Lord of all.

You Can Tell The Lord That You Love Him....

When you're happy as Larry,
When you're full of joy,
When you're blown out by the view.
Give thanks to the God
Who's showered His blessings,
Showered His blessings on you, And you, and you, and ...

***You can tell the Lord that you love Him, anytime.
You can tell the Lord that you need Him, anytime.
Thank Him for His love and care.
Shoot him up an arrow prayer.
You can tell the Lord that you love Him,
You can tell the Lord that you need Him,
You can tell the Lord that you love Him, anytime.***

Blessing of the Christmas Boxes - Sue

O Jesus I have promised - Pat

Bible reading: John 12:26

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour."

Reading:

O Jesus I Have promised is a hymn which asks Jesus to help us keep the promise to follow Him so that we can be with Him always. It was written by John Ernest Bode, a poet educated at both Eton and Oxford. Bode served as a Fellow of Christ Church, taking Holy Orders as deacon in 1841 and priest in 1843 then serving as a vicar at Westwell, Oxfordshire and Castle Camps, Cambridgeshire.

O Jesus I have promised was produced around 1866, for the confirmation of his daughter and two sons. Bode told his children, "I have written a hymn containing all the important truths I want you to remember."

The text is based on a verse in John 12 following Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his travel to Bethsaida of Galilee just before his impending passion when he shares with his disciples. "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour." (Jn. 12.26)

The hymn expresses the desire for the constant presence of Christ in our lives. If we look at just the first verse we learn the we need Christ to face the battle and keep us from wandering. When we obey the gospel and become Christians, we are in essence making a promise to serve Christ because we are confessing Him as our Lord: Following this, one's life as a Christian becomes a great battle, and we should look to Jesus for help to wage a good warfare. We must

also look to Him as our guide to keep us from wandering from the straight and narrow pathway that leads to everlasting life.

Hymn: O Jesus I have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
my master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw me nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
Lord, speak to reassure me,
to chasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
true guardian of my soul.

Lord, let me see your footmarks
and in them plant my own;
that I may follow boldly
and in your strength alone:

O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend

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Now Thank we all our God- Sue

Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Reading

An Old English Preacher once said, “A grateful mind is a great mind,” and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich, handful we do have is “Now thank we all our God.” The German Christians sing this hymn regularly and it is loved around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1586 – 1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years’ War was raging through Germany.

Flood of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the

pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after the other, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

Offering Hymn: Now thank we all our God

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done
In whom His world rejoices
Who from our mother's arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given
The Son and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven
The one eternal God
Whom earth and heaven adore
For thus it was is now
And shall be evermore

CCLI Song # 86638 Catherine Winkworth | Johann Crüger | Martin Rinkart
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Offering Prayer - Jaq

Lord, you are the bread of heaven, giving life to the world.
You fill our emptiness with your goodness.
You come to our weakness with your strength.
Take and use these gifts to bring in a rich harvest
of your heavenly food and life-giving refreshment. **Amen**

The Confession - Jaq

**Heavenly Father, You have loved us with an everlasting love,
But we have broken your holy laws
And have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness - Jaq

God is slow to anger and full of compassion,
Forgiving all who humbly repent
And trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord
God therefore forgives us in Christ Jesus,
In whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

It is Well with my Soul - Jaq

Bible Reading: Isaiah 26:3-4

Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—
in peace because they trust in you.

⁴ Trust in the LORD for ever,
for in the LORD GOD you have an everlasting rock.

Reading

“It Is Well with My Soul” was composed by Philip Paul Bliss, with lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford.

Life can be so unpredictable; joys and sorrows, blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life’s dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?

Horatio Spafford knew something about life’s unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever. Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford’s precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: “Saved alone. What shall I do?”

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.¹

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-loved hymn:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Song: It is Well with my Soul

When peace like a river
Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

**It is well it is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul**

Tho' Satan should buffet
Tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded
My helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood
For my soul

My sin O the bliss
Of this glorious tho't
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross
And I bear it no more

Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord O my soul

But Lord it's for Thee
For Thy coming we wait
The sky not the grave is our goal
Oh trump of the angel
Oh voice of the Lord
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul

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The Great Thanksgiving - Ron

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power
for you created all things, making us in your own image.
We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by his death on the cross and rising to new life
offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.
Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you
for these gifts of bread and wine,

and pray that we who receive them,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
according to our Saviour's word,
in remembrance of his suffering and death,
may share his body and blood.
On the night before he died, Jesus took bread,
and when he had given you thanks he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

We eat this bread and drink this cup
to proclaim the death of the Lord.

We do this until he returns.
Come, Lord Jesus!

Father, as we recall his saving death
and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts
be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son.
Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom,
there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:
**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour
and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Sending out of God's People

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament
you assure us of your goodness and love.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
and help us to grow in love and obedience
that we may serve you in the world

and finally be brought to that table
where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Prayers for the Church and our World - Bec

The Lord's Prayer - Bec

**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.
Save us from the time of trial, And deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen**

Because He Lives - Bec

Bible Reading: Jeremiah 29:11

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Reading:

The next song we are going to sing was written by Bill and Gloria Gaither in the late 1960's. Gloria wrote the lyrics when she was heavily pregnant with their third child. Like many beautiful and powerful songs, the lyrics were written through personal hardship and difficulty. At the end of her pregnancy, Gloria was caring for her husband, Bill, who was recovering from illness, there were significant social, spiritual and economic hardships, and the idea of bringing a

child into the world during this time was causing anxiety and anguish to Gloria.

During that time, God graced Gloria with an unexpected gentle, calming peace. Gloria recalls the experience as if God, like an attentive mother bending over her baby, saw his child and came to her rescue. Panic gave way to calmness and an assurance that only the Lord can impart. She was assured that the future would be sure, because she was in God's hands.

Like the Gaither's, we all live in uncertainty (it seems especially at the moment), we all have times of anxiety and anguish. Furthermore, and more importantly, we also all have hope and a certain future because we, too, are in God's hands! Friends, hold fast to the assurance that we can all face uncertain days because Jesus lives! *"Because I live, you also will live."* (John 14:19)

Song: Because He lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus
He came to love heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow
Because he lives, all fear is gone
Because I know, He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because he lives

How sweet to hold a new born baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives

And then one day I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives

CCLI Song # 16880 Gloria and Bill Gaither
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Notices- Sue

Be Thou my Vision - Jaq

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:19

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Reading:

Be Thou My Vision is a well known hymn that has been sung for many centuries and has had an incredible impact on people's lives. Where did this hymn come from?

Ireland!! There is only one missionary who is honoured with a global holiday, and only one is known by his own distinct colour green – St Patrick of course.

Patrick was born in 373 AD. When he was sixteen, raiders captured him and sold him as a slave. It was during this difficult time that he turned his life over to Jesus. He eventually escaped and returned home. They wanted him to stay but one night in a dream reminiscent of Paul's vision of the Macedonian man in Acts 16. Patrick saw an Irishmen pleading with him to come evangelize Ireland.

It wasn't an easy decision but he obeyed the Lord and evangelized the countryside and many came to listen. The Druids tried to stop him but he had God on his side and his ministry became really fruitful as he was able to plant over 200 Churches and baptised over 100,000 converts.

His work endured and several centuries later, the Irish church was still producing hymns, prayers, sermons and songs of worship. Be thou my vision was one of these and it was written by St Fallan, went blind in the middle of his life, and the opening verse of the hymn poignantly draws upon his experience:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;

Though Fallan must have suffered much from his loss of sight, the effect of this forced darkness was to drive him back to God, his “best thought,” and, whether “by day or night,” his only remaining “light.”

The following verses focus on the unity between God (3 in 1) and us and between the Father and Son with emphasis on the relational dynamic we have with the Triune God. With God’s presence being ever real, we who sing this song acknowledge that we are rich because the “High King of Heaven” is a treasure that we already have, and our “victory” is already won.

Song: Be Thou My Vision

You are my vision,
O King of my heart,
Nothing else satisfies,
only you Lord –
You are my best thought,
by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
your presence my light.

You are my wisdom,
You are my true word;
I ever with you,
and you with me, Lord;
You’re my great Father,
I’m your true son;
You dwell inside me,
together we’re one.

You are my battle-shield,
sword for the fight,
You are my dignity,
you're my delight;
You're my soul's shelter,
you're my high tower;
Come raise me heavenward,
O power of my power.

I don't want riches,
or man's empty praise,
You're my inheritance,
now and always;
You and you only,
the first in my heart,
High king of heaven,
my treasure You are.

High King of heaven,
when victory's won,
May I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Son!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

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The Blessing - Sue

The dead seas scrolls were until recently our oldest copies of biblical text. But in 1979, Villanova Professor Judith Hadley was assisting archaeologist Gabriel Barkay in excavating a site in Jerusalem's

Hinnon Valley. In a burial cave she saw something resembling the metal cap of a pencil. It was a sensational find, a tiny silver scroll of great antiquity. Another was found nearby. These tiny amulets dating to the Hebrew monarchy seven centuries before Christ were so small and fragile they took several years to painstakingly clean and open. When scientists finally unrolled them, they found the world's oldest extant copy of a biblical text, the words of Numbers 6:24-26. *The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

While the amulets were from the seventh century BC, the original words are far older coming 1400 years before Christ. As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness the Lord commanded the priests to bless the people with this threefold blessing.

In his notes from his Bible, D L Moody said about the priestly blessing of Numbers 6, "Here is a benediction that can give to all without being impoverished. Every heart may utter it, every letter may conclude with it, everyday may begin with it every night may be sanctified by it. Here is blessing – keeping – shining – the uplifting of our poor life of all heaven's glad morning. It is the Lord Himself who gives us this bar of music from heaven's infinite anthem.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

And give you peace. Amen.