

Hymn “*God is love*” (Abbot’s Leigh) CH4 123/CH4 615

words Timothy Rees (1874-1939) © Continuum International
music Cyril Taylor (1941) © 1970 Hope Publishing Company

1 God is love: let heaven adore him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heavens above,
and who breathes through all creation:
God is love, eternal love.

2 God is love, and gently enfolding
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp is holding
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is love: and though with
blindness
sin afflicts our human hearts,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holding, guiding, grace imparts.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain:
God is love, so love forever
o'er the universe must reign.

Prayer of Praise and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

E te whanau ... all are God’s beloved people.

Thanks be to God.

Passing the Peace

Anthem “*Carpe Diem Seize The Day*” (As for us, our lives are like grass)

text Isaiah and Horace *Odes iii* (23BC) , music K Knudson
Claire Barton/alto soloist

With young members

Hymn *"I have a dream"* (Repton) CH4 710

words & © Pamela J Pettitt (1954-2005)

music Charles H Hastings Parry (1848-1918), from *Judith*

1 'I have a dream', a man once said,
'where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and
white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love.'

2 But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.

3 Fierce persecution, war, and hate
are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price
through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.

4 So dream the dreams and sing the
songs,
but never be content;
for thoughts and words don't ease the
pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.

5 Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace.

Reading Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Gospel Mark 12:38-44

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise to Christ the Word

Sermon "Noticing the widow"

Hymn *"For the healing of the nations"* (Picardy) CH4 706/ CH4 263

words Fred Kaan (b. 1929) © 1968 Hope Publishing Co

French carol, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) from *The English Hymnal*, 1906 Oxford University Press

1 For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned;
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others concluding with...

**Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth, as it is 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**

Offering and Dedication “Aria”

J S Bach (1685-1750)

We recognise and bless the gifts brought to the table, and those which wing their way electronically from our banks to the Church's account.

Notices

Hymn “Behold the mountain of the Lord” (Glasgow) CH4 715

words from Isaiah 2:2-5, *Scottish Paraphrases*, 1781 Paraphrase 18
Melody from Moore's *Psalm-Singer's Pocket Companion*, 1756; harm. *The Psalter in Metre*, 1899;
revised *Church Hymnary*, 3rd edition, 1973

1 Behold! the mountain of the Lord
in latter days shall rise
on mountain tops above the hills,
and draw the wondering eyes.

2 To this the joyful nations round,
all tribes and tongues, shall flow;
up to the hill of God, they'll say,
and to his house we'll go.

3 The beam that shines from Zion hill
shall lighten every land;
the King who reigns in Salem's towers
shall all the world command.

4 Among the nations he shall judge;
his judgements truth shall guide;
his sceptre shall protect the just,
and quell the sinner's pride.

5 No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds
disturb those peaceful years;
to ploughshares nations beat their
swords,
to pruning-hooks their spears.

6 No longer hosts, encountering hosts,
shall crowds of slain deplore:
they hang the trumpet in the hall,
persuing war no more.

Benediction and Threefold Amen

Postlude *"Praeludium in G minor"*

Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-97)

You are invited to morning tea in the Gathering Area

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A copy of this week's sermon will be on the website, and printed copies available in the church, early next week.

Feel free to text, or email, Kerry with any thoughts about your response to the sermon.