

CHRISTCHURCH SERVICE 10.00am

January 10th 2021

'New Beginnings'



This the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We are the family of God.

And are called by God's name.

We are heirs of Christ's kingdom.

And born of the Spirit.

Let us, therefore, come together in thanksgiving.

Amen.

Lord God, giver of light and life,
by your word you bring everything into being –
the far-flung galaxies and the tiniest atomic particle.
You have given us a world to enjoy and to care for.
Give us compassion in the use of its resources,
wisdom in our stewardship of your gifts,
and reverence for all that you have made –
for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Hymn 272

From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe,
Entered Our World, Your Glory Veiled;
Not To Be Served But To Serve,
And Give Your Life That We Might Live.

This Is Our God, The Servant King,
He Calls Us Now To Follow Him,
To Bring Our Lives As A Daily Offering
Of Worship To The Servant King.

There In The Garden Of Tears,
My Heavy Load He Chose To Bear;
His Heart With Sorrow Was Torn,
'Yet Not My Will But Yours,' He Said.

This Is Our God, The Servant King,
He Calls Us Now To Follow Him,
To Bring Our Lives As A Daily Offering
Of Worship To The Servant King.

Come, See His Hands And His Feet,
The Scars That Speak Of Sacrifice,
Hands That Flung Stars Into Space
To Cruel Nails Surrendered.

This Is Our God, The Servant King,
He Calls Us Now To Follow Him,
To Bring Our Lives As A Daily Offering
Of Worship To The Servant King.

So Let Us Learn How To Serve,
And In Our Lives Enthroned Him;
Each Other's Needs To Prefer,
For It Is Christ We're Serving.

This Is Our God, The Servant King,
He Calls Us Now To Follow Him,
To Bring Our Lives As A Daily Offering
Of Worship To The Servant King.

Graham Kendrick

Prayers of Praise, Thanksgiving, Confession and Forgiveness

God, through your might and power the world was created, and through it now the world is changed, and ever changing. We read in the Scriptures of how you changed people's lives. We hear it in the stories of saints old and new. We know it through the experience and lives of our own communities. We thank and praise you for all that you have done through the changes you have made – and are still making – in our lives. We thank and praise you for the gift of your Holy Spirit who gives us – your people – strength, and the blessing of peace.

Amen.

Lord, when you came into the world, things changed. When we came into a relationship with you, things changed. Life became filled with a new sense of purpose and peace. But, Lord, sometimes we let you down by doing wrong things or failing to do right things.

We are sorry, Lord.

Sometimes, Lord, through pride, stubbornness or fear we build barriers and keep others at arm's length – even you, Lord.

We are sorry, Lord.

At times we give in to our weaknesses and temptations, failing to draw on your strength. At times we are troubled by difficult situations and find it hard to trust you.

We are sorry, Lord.

Help us to turn such things around and turn to you. Help us to learn from the past and, drawing on your strength and peace, make a better future.

Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

O God, when Jesus was baptized, you spoke of your love for him. You showed your love for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. By the power of the cross, the darkness of our wrongdoing is banished by the light of your loving forgiveness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Genesis 1 v 1-5

1In the beginning, when God created the universe, 2the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God 3 was moving over the water. 4 Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. 5 God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

Mark 1 v 4-11

4So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. 5 "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people, "and God will forgive your sins." 6 Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 7 He announced to the people, "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

Hymn 255

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:

Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!

God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:

Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;

In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.

The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;

And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Bryn Rees

'New Beginnings' Some thoughts on barriers, new challenges and beginnings. This week has been a difficult one to face for most people. It is indeed a new beginning- how do we face that? What difference does our relationship with God make?

Our readings remind us of creation- the very beginning of our world and the moment when Jesus was baptised- fully realising that he was beginning his ministry. Was he realising for the first time the implication of that? How did he face the future away from family and familiar surroundings? Let us consider the barriers we have stewarding God's creation and how we might climb over them, the challenges we face with the pandemic and the new beginnings we may have to make- whatever age we are.

The Methodist Covenant Service states 'I am no longer my own, but yours'- what does this indicate at the present moment to us all?

Prayers of Intercession

Think of the many needs in the world- pray for government, scientists, doctors, nurses, all who are administering the NHS and the vaccine programme.

Think of those we know who are finding the pandemic affecting them in negative ways.

Pray for positive thinking and attitudes and how we can be your light in what seems to be continuing darkness.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 447

Jesus, be the centre
Be my source, be my light
Jesus

(Chorus)
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song
Jesus

(Chorus)
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Jesus, be my vision,
Be my path, be my guide. Jesus

(Chorus)
Be the fire in my heart
Be the wind in these sails
Be the reason that I live
Jesus, Jesus

Michael Frye

A sending out prayer

Lord, help us to be open to your prompting
as we seek to discover what you would have us be and do.
Remind us again and again that you have promised to be our
guide and companion on our journey.
Help us to look forward with renewed commitment,
and bless our thinking and speaking and doing.
In your name.
Amen.