



Chet Valley Churches



On-line Morning Worship

3rd October 2021

We Prepare for Worship

In the beginning before time,
before people, before the world began, **God was.**

Here and now, among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, **God is.**

In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all creation has found its fulfilment, **God will be.**

Not denying the world but delighting in it,
not exploiting the world, but nourishing it,
not understanding the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,
God was, God is, God will be.

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
Come ye who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen all that is needful hath been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
He who with love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again:
Gladly for ay we adore him.**

Confession: We Say Sorry to God

Loving God, you created the world in love and entrusted its care to us.
We have abused that trust.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

You gave us freewill to make choices, good or bad.
We have chosen unwisely.
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

You asked us to love one another.
We have loved ourselves instead.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Absolution—*The Minister Proclaims God's Forgiveness*

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Psalm 8

○ Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world! Your majesty above the heavens is praised out of the mouths of babes at the breast. You have founded a stronghold against your foes, that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

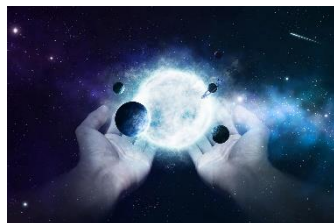
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have ordained, what is man, that you should be mindful of him; the son of man, that you should seek him out? You have made him little lower than the angels and crown him with glory and honour. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands and put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea. ○ Lord our governor, how glorious is your name in all the world!

Hymn: O Lord, my God (How Great Thou Art)

**O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:**

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
'How great thou art! How great thou art!'*

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:**



Then sings my soul, my Saviour God...

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, 'My God, how great thou art!'**

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God...

Reading: Hebrews 2:5-12

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk [Rev Alison]

It's all about control today. It started, as far as the Bible is concerned, right at the beginning. In the very first chapter of the Bible we hear: (Gen 1:26-28)

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he them; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue** it: and have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.*

We find the same theme in psalm 8:

*You have given them **dominion** over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet...*

And our reading from the letter to the Hebrews says that God has left nothing **beyond our control**. The question is whether control is a good thing or not.

If we're fans of a football team, then we're delighted if the striker is in control of the ball. If we're parents of children in school, then we're reassured if the teacher is in control of the subject matter and the class. If we're passengers in a car we're really pleased if the driver is in control.

On the other hand, too many people, mainly women, have been subjected to coercive control where another person tries to dominate their lives for selfish purposes. And there's the absolute domination one over another in slavery, still present today in our country today even though slavery was abolished by parliament in 1833.

Control, it seems, is neither good or bad on its own. It all depends on the context and the way it is exercised. I do wonder about our God-given dominion and control over the earth. Having control also implies responsibility. We, every single one of us, have been given responsibility by God of exercising control over this planet and everything on it.

And because the responsibility has been given to us by God, it is clear that the kind of control we should have is the kind of control that God exercises over the whole universe: not coercive, not self-seeking; not for self-interest; but loving, caring, nurturing. That sounds like a huge task. Isn't it rather unfair to place that burden on our shoulders?

Well, no, it's not unfair: God created in love for us and then gave us freewill to choose how to use or abuse the earth he had entrusted to us. If we chose well, then things would go well. It shouldn't have been a burden to us. So did we take care? Or did we lord it over the world?

In the last 150 years, particularly in the white western world, we have acted to the degradation of creation and contributed vastly to climate change with all its knock-on effects. In the last decade there have been deadly outbreaks of infectious diseases killing hundreds of thousands of people. There have been catastrophic storms, sudden floods, wildfires, heat domes, complete changes in weather patterns all leading to loss of life, destruction of property, destitution and starvation. People are fighting over scarce resources: food and water.

We do know about it, though not everything about it, and we can take steps to mitigate the catastrophe. But... Do we want that responsibility? Do we care enough? It made me think of the chap landing the plane when all his engines had been put out by birds in flight just after take-off over New York in 2016. The pilot had 155 people on board to care for—lives in his hands like it or not. He probably

wouldn't have chosen that particular responsibility but it had been given to him by virtue of his job. Having just taken off, he was flying too low to return to any airport for an emergency landing. He had to use all his skill and knowledge to land the plane safely, somewhere. And he did just that: he glided the plane and ditched in the Hudson River off midtown Manhattan, missing iconic buildings like the Chrysler Building and the Empire States Building, plus all the river traffic. Everyone was rescued.

Perhaps that's a bit like us as Christians in the world today. There are present and future lives in our hands, those of our children and grandchildren, and of children across the world. Hopefully we do at least care about them, though we may not want the responsibility for their survival placed on each of us. That, however, is not a choice. Responsibility has been trustingly given to us in love by God. It's up to us to use the skill and knowledge that we have, in as much or little as we are able to do, to 'land the plane safely'.

Are you willing to take control?

We Say What We Believe

believe

Let us affirm our common faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

♪ Offertory Hymn: *Take My Life and Let it Be*

**Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will, and make it thine: it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart: it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

We Pray Together

Loving God, we praise and thank you for the wonders of creation; the beauty that we can see in the outside world if we only stop to look. Help us to understand what we can do to tend your creation for the good of all and give us the will to do it.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift to you the leaders of the world. We pray that you will open their hearts and minds to their responsibilities. Give them a vision of a restored world and a spirit of collaboration to bring that vision to fruition.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift to you the poor and the vulnerable in our country and across the world. Help us not to forget them and give us to courage continually to bring them to others' attention by our words and actions.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift to you those in our communities who are struggling with poor health, with broken hearts, with loneliness. Help us to discover them and to bring your love, warmth and healing to them.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, your church, whether we are meeting together in one place, or gathering on-line. You know our frailties, strengths and needs. Help us to shine your light and bring your hope wherever we are.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.**

🎵 Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard **My** people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear **My** light to them? **Whom** shall I send?

*Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak **My** word to them, whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord...

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, 'til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give **My** life to them, whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord...



🙏 Prayer

In the beginning before time,
before people, before the world began, **God was**.

Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth
for the purposes of heaven, **God is**.

In the future, when we have turned to dust
and all creation has found its fulfilment, **God will be**.

Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you; may the wind be always at your back;
may the sun shine warm upon your face; and the rains fall soft upon your
fields. And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen**.

The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation and bring forth the fruits of
righteousness. Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God**.