

Traditional Home service Sunday 19th Sep

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again.
Have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself
as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord
Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine)

READINGS - Extracts from Noah
(See below)

TALK

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

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 2 (Make Me a Channel of Your Peace)

CONCLUSION

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

1 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.

Refrain:

*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.*

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my
sight.

Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

[Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Saviour am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his
love.

[Refrain]

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring
your love
Where there is injury, your pardon
Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in
you

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me
bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy

*Oh, master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

Make me a channel of your peace
It isn't pardoning that we are
pardoned
In giving to all men let we receive
And in dying that we're born to turn
around

Exerts from story of Noah using the message version.

God saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil- evil, evil, evil from morning to night.

God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place, it broke his heart.

God said ' I'll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds the works. I'm sorry I made them'

But Noah was different. God liked what he saw in Noah.

This is the story of Noah. Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community, Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem Ham and Japheth.

God said to Noah, ' it's all over. It's the end of the human race. The violence is everywhere, life itself corrupt to the core. I'm making a clean sweep'.

' Build yourself a ship from teakwood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Build a roof for it and put in a window 18 inches from the top, put in a door on the side of the ship and make three decks.

I'm going to bring a flood on the earth that will destroy everything alive under heaven, total destruction.

But I'm going to establish a covenant with you. You'll board the ship, and your sons, your wife and your sons wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board the ship, to preserve their lives with you: two of every species of bird, mammal, and reptile. Also get food you'll need and store it up for you and them.'

Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

As the under ground springs erupted, the windows of heaven were thrown open, and rain started to pour.

That's when, Noah and his whole family boarded the ship. And with them every kind of creature.

They came to Noah and to the ship in pairs.....just as God had commanded Noah. Then God shut the door behind him.

The floodwaters took over for 150 days. Eventually..

In the sixth hundred and first year of Noah's life, on the first day of the month, the flood had dried up. Noah opened the hatch of the ship and saw dry ground.....

God spoke to Noah: 'leave the ship, you and your wife and your sons and your son's wives.

Then take all the animals with you, the whole menagerie! So they can reproduce and flourish on the earth'.

God made promises to Noah and his descendants:

'For as long as earth lasts,
Planting and harvest, cold and heat,
Summer and winter, day and night
Will never stop.

I'm putting my rainbow in the clouds, a sign of the covenant between me and the earth, between me and every living creature, never again will flood waters destroy all life'.

Louise Morton - Noah talk
'You think we have got it bad...?'

We may look at the world around us, and be troubled by many things, pollution, global warming, the extinction of many species of plants and animals.

The misery of so many people, caught up in war zones, cruelty, human trafficking so much dysfunction.

One thing we can be sure of it is not as bad as the days of Noah, there are still good news stories, sometimes people are rescued, species saved, mercy ships bring healing and hope.

Captain Tom raises millions for the NHS

In the days of Noah, he was the only good news...

Genesis tells us God saw what was going on, on earth, and his heart was broken!

He was sorry he had made us, sorry for the creation he had brought forth...

It was completely corrupted, evil reigned.. What sort of place? Can you begin to imagine?

What on earth was life like for Noah and his family....the ancient Hebrew of the text suggests the world God decided to destroy, had been virtually self destroyed already.

I want to think about who Noah was....How amazing was Noah, we may feel under pressure! We may feel alone in our attempts to walk out Godliness, be encouraged and be challenged! Noah had it worse and he did it, he kept going, in the face of mass evil, complete evil, somehow he walked with integrity, he was righteous, he found favour with God!

It's always possible!

It says he walked with God, typing up the passage really aware of how much God speaks, Noah knew how to hear ! And was obedient to what he heard!

I want to think about who we see God is ! From this passage....So interesting how God is described his heart broken, his heart grieved, he is sorry he has made the earth... God works out a salvation plan through Noah, Noah has a lot to do!

The ark was huge, one and a half football fields long, as high as a four story building.. He had to gather all the food...

But there were also things God did! He sent him the animals, and when all was ready he closed the door!

It isn't recorded, but I wonder for this project was there some sort of protection, some sort of angelic shield?

A few years ago our daughter and her boyfriend were living in a house where one of the other tenants had fraudulently been claiming rents off other tenants, our daughter challenged this and he became extremely intimidating and threatening, one Saturday night they arrived back in wellingborough with literally what they stood up in ... a plan was hatched for them to move out, they hired a van, they managed to move out and clean their room while this chap was there, without him noticing! Our daughter can be clumsy ! She is not very stealthy! It seemed to me a miracle! They managed it!

Was it something like this for Noah only much more wonderful?

Was the ark somehow hidden ?

Any way somehow he managed it, the rain came, God closed the door...

Again I wonder did the Lord cause the animals to go into a state of slumbering, hibernation ?

It doesn't say, but I wonder? Rather than being frisky! Did peace reign?

Outside the ark, mass destruction drowning everywhere, inside the ark a place of safety. Jesus speaks of the days of Noah, in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, he describes how unaware people were of the coming disaster, carrying on with banquets, and parties... He likens this to the time of His own return...

Eventually, the story comes to the new start, and God's promises.

I find it interesting his covenant isn't just with human kind but with the animals too.

The promise is that never again will the whole earth be destroyed by floods.

And that from now on always there will be the out working of the seasons, the opportunity to plant and harvest..

What can we learn from the story of Noah, what can we take away and act upon?

A few: We sees !

Firstly, We see the ability to walk well with God does not depend on our surroundings! The story of Noah reminds me of the story of Ernest Gordon and the building of the Burma Siam railway by Japanese prisoners of war, the conditions were beyond terrible, the shocking statistic of 393 fatalities for every mile of track...Gordon describes the conditions and the state of mind of hate being the main motivation for staying alive... Everyman for himself, fighting over the little food....

He describes a change which he would call : miracle on the river Kwai.... There had been an incident, a shovel was seen to be missing, guards wanted a culprit, when no one stepped forward a whole line of prisoners were about to be shot, a chap steps forward, says it was him, is promptly beaten to death by the guards..

The shovels when counted again are all found to be there...

One of the prisoners remembered the bible verse,.... greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends... a shift in attitude began...

‘Death was still with us(he writes) but we slowly were being freed from its destructive grip. We were seeing for ourselves the sharp contrast between the forces that made for life and those that made for death. Selfishness, hatred, envy, jealousy, greed, self indulgence, laziness and pride were all anti life. Love, heroism, self sacrifice, sympathy, mercy, integrity and creative faith, on the other hand were the essence of life, turning mere existence into living in its truest sense. These were the gifts of God to men... God had not left us. He was with us, calling us to live the divine life in fellowship.’

With evil and misery all around them they managed kingdom living, living lives under Gods sovereignty! Noah surrounded by evil managed it too!

Let’s not settle for existing! But life in its truest sense! Developing hearing well, walking close... Keeping our hearts right.. Putting into practice kingdom teaching. We have huge advantages compared to Noah, (and the prisoners in Burma !) we have each other! We have the Bible! We have Jesus ! We have the Holy Spirit.....

We have the victory won on the wooden cross, that’s how we have safety, forgiveness mercy.

We don’t need the wooden boat ! We have the victory of the cross.

Secondly, we see how much God is emotionally involved in what is happening on earth!

He cares, he will be grieved over those who are suffering, sad at wild fires, deplore the pollution of his seas...Jesus is so many times described as being moved, having compassion.

Even in the days of Noah our God is recorded as being emotionally involved with people and this planet!

Thirdly, we see Farming, seedtime, harvest etc..bigger picture, caring for the world, is a God given ministry!

We are called as humans to take care of the planet, to feed ourselves from it, sustain it’s natural resources, protect and encourage its diversity of life.

There is a commissioning given to Noah and his family: they are called to Prosper!

Reproduce! Fill the earth, and to do it responsible for other life, every living creature... to lavish life on the earth.....how often have we not done this! How often do we not do this! We overfish, we destroy forests.... We plunder...and leave devastation rather than using sustainable methods...

Really encouraged to hear stories where there is life lavishing going on!

News this week story from Pakistan, Karachi, where the temperature has started to rise to over 50 some days! One man has a plan and he is trying to get some more funding for it, he is planting forests in the city... it brings in wild life, it lowers the temperature by 6 degrees..I think God loves this!

Harvest season traditionally one of being thankful, grateful for his provision, and a reminder that though we plough fields and scatter seed... it is fed and watered by his mighty hand...

He is Lord, He Is God, He is good, He cares, his heart is broken when he sees evil, he is delighted when he sees those who want to walk with him.. who will live him...