

Welcome to Worship at VPBC

Hello to everyone, and welcome as we join together again online this week.

Thank you to Robin Plummer for his talk today and to our IT Team, Pete and Bolaji.

We will share Communion with each other during the service, and the invitation to join us is open to everyone who loves the Lord Jesus and is seeking to follow Him.

Thank you to Toks for leading the Communion.

As part of our worship you may want to put aside your regular offering and also a gift for the Communion fund which is there to give financial support to those in need in the Fellowship.

My prayer is that we will meet with God and, that by His grace we will worship Him in spirit and in truth as we come together today. Liz

The title of Robin's talk is 'The Salvation Turnaround' and we will be looking at the words of John the Baptist recorded in Luke's gospel, ch 3:1-18, and thinking about how we can be ready for God in 2021.

Isaiah 40:3

A messenger is calling out,

"IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD. MAKE A STRAIGHT ROAD THROUGH IT FOR OUR GOD."

Lord we praise You today for who You are and for all You've done in our lives.

Thank You for every good and perfect gift that You have blessed us with.

As we come before You now help us to prepare our hearts to hear Your word, receive Your grace and follow Your way.

Amen

Our first song celebrates the amazing love of our Saviour Jesus. 'And Can It Be' was written by Charles Wesley in 1738 to celebrate his conversion to Christ.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWek8dsbETg>

Deuteronomy 6:4-6

⁴ Israel, listen to me. The LORD is our God. The LORD is the one and only God. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength. ⁶ The commandments I give you today must be in your hearts.

Let's use Psalm 103 to guide us in our prayers.

Morning Prayer from psalm 103

O my soul and all that is within me bless His Holy name

Take some time to speak out His name and bless Him

Let's sing 'Jesus Name above all Names'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEBAHFFJdW8>

Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits .

Begin to list the benefits, blessings and gifts he has given today

He forgives all your sins

Let Him search your heart for any attitudes, etc, that you do not need to carry into the day. Ask for forgiveness)

Let's pause to listen to 'O the deep, deep love of Jesus' sung by Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vUhwyjdk8A>

He heals all your diseases

He redeems your life from the pit .

Pray for anyone in need of healing, rescuing, redeeming...situations close to home and around the world

We worship Jesus our redeemer who has rescued us by His grace.

'Rescuer' by Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAg7rn7fH3Q>

He crowns you with love and compassion

Sit quietly and receive His love for you today. Ask to be filled with His compassion for others.

Amen

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnOFh9WFe6k>

(This 'Rhythm of Prayer' is used by a Christian Charity called Renew Wellbeing)

Let's listen to Luke ch 3:1-18 and then Robin's talk.

READING

TALK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0la6xRc7-tk>

In the first chapter of John's Gospel he quotes John the Baptist's words about Jesus.

¹⁵ John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'"

Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians

Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Humble by Audrey Assad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy8JIOZKx-M>

Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honoured him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honour of God the Father.

Toks has prepared our time of Communion

PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that You would still our minds and quiet our hearts as we come before your table today.

We confess that You alone are the living God, You alone are worthy of all honour and glory and praise for You set aside Your heavenly glory and came into this world as a man, to pay the ultimate price for our sins. We praise You that We are included in Your gracious forgiveness.

Thank You that You willingly offered up Your body to be the sacrifice for our sins . Thank You that Your body was broken for us and that Your precious blood was shed

We ask that You would draw each one of us into ever closer fellowship with You , as we partake together of the bread and wine - in grateful remembrance of what You did for each one of us on Calvary's cross.

PRAYER AT COMMUNION 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NIV)

On the night he was handed over,
the night before he was crucified,
Jesus gathered with his friends for a meal.
He took the bread, and after blessing it,
he broke it, saying,

"This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."
[break the bread]

Please pray with me:

Jesus, as we take this bread,
let it be a sign of all you did for us,
and who you are for us.

Thank you for this bread of life.
bread]

[Everyone eat the

After sharing the bread,
Jesus took a cup of wine, and gave it to them to drink, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let's pray:

Jesus, as we drink this cup,
let it be a sign for us of all you did for us,
and who you are for us.
Thank you that you bring us peace that passes understanding.
[everyone drink together]

Behold the Lamb

(Stuart Townend)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACHPwx7EGQA>

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus - what a privilege to be able to come before Your throne of grace and partake of the precious sacraments of bread and wine, in remembrance of Your atoning sacrifice on the cross of Calvary.

Thank You for dying for us on the cross and paying the enormous price for our sins, so that we may be forgiven of all our faults and receive Your indwelling life.

May we never forget the enormous price that was paid on our behalf.
May we never forget that we have been bought with a price – the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we live for Him from this day on, knowing that Your body was broken and Your blood was spilt - for us,

Thank You Lord - in Jesus name.

And we pray 'Your kingdom come, Your will be done!'

Build Your kingdom here

Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqZX08DDWiA>

Let's bless one another with these words:

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you.

Amen