

Sunday 22nd November 2020

Our service this morning is led by David Barnsley

Welcome

Song: O the mighty hand that controls the sea

Oh, the mighty hand that controls the sea
Is the hand that fights for and cares for me.
And the God who thunders, the God ablaze
Is the God who loves me a million ways.

Oh, the mountains tremble, the earth it shakes,
For my God has heard of the laws I break.
But He holds the fire of His wrath from me,
And He sends His Son to a cruel tree.

*Praise to God
For the world He made,
For the Son He gave,
For the price He paid.
Praise to God;
Let the song be raised
Up to God, my God,
And the One who saves.*

Oh, His glory more than my eyes can take,
For my God, He lives in a holy state.
But He shows the beat of His heart to me
In the face of Christ for eternity.

Praise to God....

Oh, the saints will roar on the final day
For the mighty King and His glorious name.
But the God who reigns as the world shall bow,
He is in my heart, and He loves me now.

Praise to God....

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Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the desires of our own hearts. We have broken your holy laws. We have done what we ought not to have done, and have left undone what we ought to have done. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, and forgive us our sins. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a godly and obedient life, to the praise of your holy name, Amen.

Christmas notice

Bible reading: Nehemiah 1:1 - 2:10

1 The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, **2** Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. **5** Then I said:

"O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, **6** let your ear be attentive and your

eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

¹⁰ "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man."

I was cupbearer to the king.

¹ In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; ² so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

⁴ The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

⁶ Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

⁷ I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-

Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?" ⁸ And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. ⁹ So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

Trinity Kids talk: Anna Watkin

Song: I am the Lord and I do not change

I am the Lord and I do not change;
I am the Lord and I do not change;
Kingdoms rise and Kingdoms fall,
But the Lord don't change at all.
No, the Lord don't change at all.

God chose Israel long, long ago,
And when Israel sinned God never let them go.
Listen to Him...

I am the Lord and I do not change...

There are times we feel like we could walk on air,
But when that feeling's gone God's love will still be there.
Listen to Him...

I am the Lord and I do not change...

He keeps every promise and his word is true.
What He is He says, and what he says He'll do.

Listen to Him...

I am the Lord and I do not change...

Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall,
He wisely, wonderfully holds them all.
Blessed are those who on Him call,
'Cause the Lord don't change at all.

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Sermon: Bob Marsden

Prayers

The Lord's prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory; for ever and ever. Amen.

Song: Let your Kingdom come

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.

May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are. We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown. The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your kingdom come."

*Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.*

Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.

Perform Your wondrous deeds
Through those who are weak.
Lord, use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach Your gospel
Till our dying breath.

*Let Your kingdom come,
Let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.*

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Recordings of the talk can be found on our website: trinitybuxton.org.uk/sermonsandmedia

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Notices

- 1. Next week will be an All Age Service.** Why not send out the link to our YouTube channel to families that you know so that they can join us online?
- 2. Christmas at Trinity.** This year we're replacing our usual Christmas events with ones out in the community and things that people can join in with from home. We'd love to involve as many people as possible with these. Please do get in touch if you think you can help in any way.
- 3. If you would like to read our updated Covid19 risk assessments (Return to Work, Return to Worship, Groups),** you can find the latest versions here: trinitybuxton.org.uk/covid19. These have been approved by the Church Council.

Safeguarding

If you have any concerns you need to report, please contact Bob. If Bob is unavailable, please contact the Diocese on 01332 388678. If they are unavailable, please speak to Maria, Anna or Kate S.

Nehemiah 1:1 - 2:10: Praying out of concern for the Lord's people who bear His Name

Susa = the capital of Persia; King Artaxerxes = the King of Persia; Kislev = December

- 586BC: Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and Temple. Majority of God's Old Testament people into exile.
- 539BC: Babylonian empire falls to King Cyrus of Persia, who allows exiles to return to rebuild temple.
- 536-516BC: Opposition but altar and foundations built. Recorded in Ezra 1-6. Haggai & Zechariah prophesy to get the temple built.
- 515BC: Temple rebuilt but smaller than Solomon's and not the glorious temple prophesied in Ezekiel.
- 458BC: Ezra returns with second group of exiles. Ezra 7-10
- 445BC: Nehemiah returns with third group of exiles and start to rebuild the city walls.

The city and temple represent the Lord dwelling with His people knowing His blessing.

The Lord made great promises (prophecies) about his people coming back from exile, a new covenant, a renewed city, a glorious new temple with the nations being gathered in to know His blessing.

Will the Lord's people be renewed in humble obedience to His Word? The work starts with a praying servant...

1. Pray out of concern for the Lord's people who bear His Name (v1-4)

'A dwelling for my Name' v9

2. Pray knowing the Lord's promises to His people (v5)

3. Pray confessing the disobedience of the Lord's people to His Word (v6-7)

4. Pray for the saving and gathering of the Lord's people who repent (v8-10)

5. Pray patiently, ready to serve and speak for the Lord (1v11 – 2v10)

Even in difficult circumstances!

More information? Would you like someone to visit you?

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