

**Welcome and Introduction**

We are glad you are here and our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts with joy as we praise Him and meditate in His word this morning. Andrea is going to read a passage in scripture, which is a prayer and we will sing three songs. Please sing with your hearts by following the words on the screen.

**Scripture Reading (Andrea Moises)**

**Ephesian 1:15-23**

*<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

**Song 1 – Come, now is the time to worship by Bryan Doerksen and Wendy**

**Whitehead** <https://youtu.be/-jU1q33K6yQ> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come, just as you are, to worship.  
Come, just as you are, before your God.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains for those  
Who gladly choose you now.

**Song 2 – Open the Eyes of my heart Lord by Michael W. Smith**

<https://youtu.be/idQ1n3cdgfo> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You

I want to see You  
To see You high and lifted up  
Shinning in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see you

### **Song 3 – This is Amazing Grace by Phil Wickham**

<https://youtu.be/zPQKj2Zptr0> Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free  
Oh, Jesus, I sing for  
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy, worthy, worthy

### **Prayer (Andrea Moises)**

Father we commit this time of listening to the preaching of your word, we ask you to bless and anoint Claudio as your vessel so he can bring a message that comes directly from your heart to our hearts. May the Holy Spirit help us all as your church, not only to

be good listeners, but to be willing and prompted to put your word into practice, ready to obey you all the days of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen

## Preaching and Teaching

### Introduction

Last week we read chapter 1 of the book of Nehemiah and I gave you a little bit of a background. God's people went into exile: 721 BC to Assyria (the 10 tribes of the North – Israel) and 586 BC to Babylon (the 2 tribes of the South – Judah). 70 years later they started to return. First return was in 537 BC under a man called Zerubbabel, then Ezra, who was a priest, took the Levites with him in 458 BC. Not much later in 444 BC Nehemiah then came. Nehemiah is a continuation from the book of Ezra and we see the restoration of the people and the rebuilding of the temple and the city walls. **Nehemiah Prayed, Fasted and he repented.** I spoke about the importance for us in this time to Remember, Repent, Realign in order for God to Release us. Today I want us to concentrate on one of the R (s). Our need to **Realign** our lives to the **Fundamental Values of our Faith.** What are they? I've chosen 4 of them for us to meditate on this morning.

### I – God's word

This week we commemorated the death of William Tyndale, who 484 years ago was condemned to be burned to death for translating the Bible into English. His final words spoken at the stake with a fervent zeal and a loud voice were reported as "Lord!!! Open the King of England eyes." Scripture has authority in all matters of faith and practice. I believe we are to realign our lives to God's Word. We need to return to God's word, Individually and as a church because. ***"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*** ***II Timothy 3:16-17*** This was Paul's pastoral letter to Timothy. He was saying Timothy, my son you should preach and teach all scripture. Not some scripture, but all scripture. We don't avoid difficult ones or jump the ones we don't like. If a passage of scripture is not clear we should interpret it in light of the ones that are more clear. We need to look at scripture in context and that is why it is important to read the Bible as a whole book. Old and New Testament (the entire 66 books of the Bible). We need to look at the background first: When was it written? To whom? What was the historical context? What type of literature is it? Is it a narrative, a poem, a prophecy...? What did it mean for those who first heard these words? Then we can apply God's word into our lives' context and our community. We have the written word and the living word of God. We believe in Jesus! ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*** A triune God who manifested himself in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our master and he will teach and guide us to obey all of God's Word. ***"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."*** ***Isaiah 40:8.*** Psalm 119 is the longest of the Psalms and it is fascinating to see the author's devotion to God's word. He delights in God's Word and he uses synonyms like law, precepts, statutes, decrees, commands, God's ways,...I've highlighted here some

of the beautiful verses: **30 “I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. 31 I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame. 32 I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding. 64 The earth is filled with your love, Lord; teach me your decrees. 72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. 80 May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees, that I may not be put to shame. 89 Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. 92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. 103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 105 Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. 129 Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them. 160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. 171 May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. 172 May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.**

## **II – God’s Salvation**

**“8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.”**

**Ephesians 2:8-9** Salvation is a gift from God, not by works. The good works are only consequence of our salvation. It’s through faith in Jesus alone that we are saved and Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Salvation is available for all who believe and God doesn’t want anyone to perish **16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16** The Bible also says **9 “if you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10**

We need to recognize that we are all sinners and repent. **23 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23-24 / 23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23**

Baptism doesn’t save us, but grace and faith in Jesus. However, baptism is a public declaration of our faith. Christian baptism is immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus commanded us to believe and be baptised. According to the scriptures ‘he was buried, and he rose again on the third day’. When going into immersion in the water you are saying the same. You’re saying that you have died for your sins, your old self is buried and your new life with him begins. **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! II Corinthians 5:17 “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life”. Romans 6:4**

## **III – God’s Mission**

We are to be a mission oriented church. It is the duty of every disciple of Jesus to bear witness of the Gospel. We have ‘The great commission’. Every believer is a missionary because Jesus commanded us to make disciples of every nation. **18 “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name**

***of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*** When I was 17, I was in a worship service and I was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. I couldn't stop crying. I believe I had a vision as I saw like big letters in the air and I could read it clear and the words said: ***‘Go into all the world and preach the Gospel’***. And just like the prophet Isaiah, I also heard the voice of the Lord calling me. ***‘8“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”*** I left everything behind: a secure job career, my family, my city, my nation. Andrea and I got married in 1995 and we went to serve in Egypt, where our children were born in 2002 and 2004. We lived and ministered also in Israel and Iraq and we're still going by his grace, Jesus is the King of my life and I want to please him. He saved me, he died for me and I want to serve him in His mission. ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8***

#### **IV - God's People**

We are to celebrate and embrace diversity! God desires diversity in unity, one body with many parts. The body of Christ is made of people from every background. It is an international community of believers from every tribe, nation and tongue. There are different expressions of worship. ***9a “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...” Revelation 7:9a*** One of my Highlights working in YWAM, which is an international Christian organization, was a Leadership School I did in South Africa in 1998. We were about 120 students and 30 staff and we came from 51 different nations. Among us we spoke more than 120 languages. Before we started the service that night, the worship leader encouraged us to get together, with people from our own nation. Then he asked us two questions: 1. How would you receive a king in your nation and culture? 2. How do you, in your home culture, celebrate a marriage? If the king was to come through that door, how would you receive and honour him? The Africans started dancing and shouting with joy. The Maoris from New Zealand started to perform the Haka. The Brazilians started jumping and shouting as if they were at a football stadium, cheering up for their football team. It was a little bit of heaven on earth. We went on and on in worship for about 3 hours. All we did that night was to worship the King Jesus. I would like us to celebrate the nations represented in our church. Every time we have one new nation coming through that door we will rejoice with God, because He loves all people. God so loved the world that he gave his son. We are to embrace, value, honour, respect, love and trust each other as we work together in submission to Jesus. We are to be a Spirit led body of Christ, where everyone feels included and listened to. We are to inspire others through example and encourage one another in love. ***24b “But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. I Corinthians 12:24b-27*** In humility we are to value others above ourselves ***3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others”.*** ***Philippians 2:3-4*** We are

to seek God's kingdom first. May your Kingdom come and your will be done. Confronting evil, injustice, and hypocrisy.

## **Response Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the fundamental values of our faith. Here we are with our heart full of desire to return and realign our lives to these four values we looked at today. Lord we pray for a fresh anointing of your Holy Spirit, to teach and guide us into a genuine love for your word. Like the psalmist we declare your word is a lamp into our feet, it is sweeter than honey and it is more precious than gold for us. Thank you Lord for saving us! We pray for repentance and public confession of our faith in Jesus. May we see many people going through the water and being baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in this Church. May we all proclaim Jesus, Lord and Saviour of our lives as we seek daily to die for our sins and be raised again into a new life in Christ. Father, we also pray that we would all be engaged in your mission of making disciples of every nation. Pour out your spirit in us so we may surrender it all to you; our lives, resources, gifts and talents to be fully used for your service. It is also our prayer that we will see every nation that is represented here in Leicester worshipping with us. May we embrace, love and celebrate each individual of this diverse body, which is your church. Lord we want to experience a little bit of heaven every time we meet to worship and celebrate you, Jesus our King and Lord of the nations. May your kingdom come and your will be done.

In Jesus' holy name, we pray....Amen!

## **Song 4 – Here as In Heaven by Elevation Worship**

[https://youtu.be/a0C\\_IPro\\_xk](https://youtu.be/a0C_IPro_xk) - Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

The atmosphere is changing now  
For the Spirit of the Lord is here  
The evidence is all around  
That the Spirit of the Lord is here

Overflow in this place  
Fill our hearts with Your love  
Your love surrounds us  
You're the reason we came  
To encounter Your love  
Your love surrounds us

Spirit of God fall fresh on us  
We need Your presence  
Your kingdom come

Your will be done  
Here as in heaven

A miracle can happen now  
For the Spirit of the Lord is here  
The evidence is all around  
That the Spirit of the Lord is here

### **Final Prayer and Apostolic Blessings**

Let's end our service this morning by speaking to each other these words:

***14 "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13:14 6 "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Psalm 23:6***

Have a blessed week and see you all next Sunday!