

Welcome and Introduction

Thank you for joining us this morning for our worship service! We are glad you are here. Together we want to praise God for His amazing grace over all us. We feel very blessed and honoured as family to be here this morning. Thank you for voting unanimously last Sunday inviting us to be your new minister. Despite of all the challenges we face with covid-19: you can't sing as you would like to and we also cannot hug our shake hands as we need to maintain social distance, however we can sing in our hearts and follow the words in the screen and we can speak blessing to one another. For those who will receive this email at home you can listen the songs on the Youtube and sing along. We will be meditating today on the first letter of the apostle John.

Scripture Reading and Open Prayer (Andrea Moises)

Psalm 103:1-5

- ¹ *Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.*
- ² *Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—*
- ³ *who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,*
- ⁴ *who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,*
- ⁵ *who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

This Psalm, written by David, expresses his gratitude for all God's blessings in his life. He praised God with everything in him; his feeling, thinking, willing and desiring. He prompts his own soul to praise God. Why? Because He recognized God as the source of all good in his life. May we all have the same attitude. God has been good to us so let's praise Him with all our heart, mind and soul!

Our Father in Heaven,

We praise your name and thank for your many benefits, your unending grace and unconditional love. We gather here in this place to bring you our praises and sincere adoration with our whole being, for You alone are worthy, you alone have given the very best you had, your son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Song 1 – 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) by Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman

https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRI0E Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

*Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Song 2 – Cornerstone – Hillsong Live 2012

https://youtu.be/a3HH_-1Zbs Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Scripture Reading – I John 5:13-15

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴ This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

Preaching and Teaching - The father's Love Letter

Introduction

Would be great if we could read the whole letter because it is a love letter from our Father direct to us, his children. The apostle John wrote this letter inspired by the Holy Spirit, towards the end of his life, approximately on the 80s AD. He wrote to a group of church near Ephesus. I would like you to stop this week and read it aloud for you to hear. The apostle addresses the church in a very loving way. **2:1** *“My dear children, I write this to you”... 2:18 “Dear children”,...3:7 “Dear children”,...* He uses the word children but he also uses friend. **2:7** *“Dear friends”,... 3:21 Dear friends,”...* The purpose of John’s letter was to encourage and strengthen the believers. **5:13** *“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”* The apostle in this letter as well as in the Gospel he wrote, wants us to believe in Jesus and have the assurance of Eternal Life! Parallel with the Gospel he wrote: **John 20:30-31** – *Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.* ³¹ *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* There are three main themes in the letter: God is Light (1:1-2:27); God is Love (2:28-4:21) and God is Life (5:1-21)

I – To All who Believe in Jesus

God is light!

There were two major false teachings already going on in the church so he wants to bring the light confronting the lies with the truth.

First - there were some people who were denying the reality of sin (John says that if continue in sin, we can’t claim to belong to God). If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. We are all sinners and only through Jesus we can obtain forgiveness and freedom from our sins. **Romans 3:23** *“for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God,”* **1.10** – *If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his words have no place in our lives.* **2:1** *“My dear children, I write this things to you so that you will not sin, But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”* **1:9** *“If confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

Second - They were some also denying the human and divine nature of Jesus who is 100% God and 100% man! They were denying that Jesus was the Messiah – God in the flesh. John said if we believe that Jesus was God incarnated and trust him for our salvation, we are children of God. **2:22** *“Who is the liar? Whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son.* ²³ *No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.”* **4:1-3** *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* ² *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,* ³ *but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.* **5:1a** *“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God”*

We must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God **John 3:3** *“No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”* Look at Jesus’s dialogue with Nicodemus in John 3. The apostle Paul also writes to the church in Rome: **Romans**

6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” When we believe and confess we are saved – We are born again! Are you a born again believer or a nominal Christian only? **Romans 10:9-10 “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. ¹⁰For 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.**

I grew up in a Catholic family. My parents were Christians, but only by name. We used to go church only on special occasions like wedding and infant baptisms. They used to pray prayers they had memorized, but they didn't have a relationship with God. When I was about 8, I heard for the first time the Gospel and God's plan of salvation. Some missionaries came to reach out to my neighborhood and they invited the children to hear Bible stories. I was fascinated to hear stories and learn about characters like David and Goliath, Jonas and Whale, Daniel and his friends. But when I heard the Jesus' story it touched me deeply and I realized I was a sinner and I confessed my sin, inviting Jesus into my heart to be my Lord and Saviour. Later my parents also heard and understood the gospel and we all got baptized in a cold winter in 1982.

God is Love

3:1 “How great is the love the father has lavished on us”... John 3:16 “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.” Apostle John “The disciple who Jesus loved” He had a profound revelation of Jesus love for him. Jesus knows us completely and not who we pretend to be, but the sinners that we really are. Being loved is the most powerful motivation in the world for change. **4:18a There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.** He loves us unconditionally! Because he first loved us we can also love our neighbour. **4:7 “Dear friends, let us love one another...4:19 We love because he first loved us...**

II – You Have Eternal Life – Assurance / Certainty

God is Life! And we have assurance of Eternal Life – because God is life. God is eternal and he made us in his likeness. Do you have Eternal Life? When it starts? What does the love letter of the Father is saying to us? **1:1-2 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ²The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.” 2:25 “And this is what he promised us—eternal life.” 3:2 “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.” 5:11-12 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”**

Whoever believes in God's son has eternal life. He is all you need! You don't need to wait for eternal life, because it begins at the moment you believe. You don't need to work for it, because it is already yours. Because his word is true, we can have assurance of Eternal Life and victory over sin. By faith we can be certain of our

eternal destiny with him. We build our confidence by trusting in God's word and in Christ provision for our sin. You don't need to worry about it, because you have been given eternal life by God himself – and it is guaranteed. Some people hope they will receive eternal life. The Holy Spirit inspired John to say we can know have it. Our certainty is based on God's promise that he has given us eternal life through his Son. This is true whether you feel close to God or far away from him. Eternal life is not based on feelings but on facts. If you are not sure, ask yourself: "Have I honestly committed my life to Him as my Lord and Saviour?" If you believe you can be sure that you are saved. By his grace we are saved, it was all done by Jesus on the cross. If so, you know by faith that you are indeed a child of God. We can be assured of our future with Him.

III - Praying with Confidence

5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. The emphasis here is on God's will, not our will. When we communicate with God we don't demand what we want rather we discuss with Him what he wants for us. If we align our prayers with his will, he will listen and we can be certain that if he listens he will definitely answer!

Conclusion

The Father's love letter is to all who believe in Jesus! God is light, God is love and God is life! You have eternal life and we can have this assurance! Let us approach Him with confidence.

Response Prayer

Dear Father,

Thank you for this love letter you wrote and sent to us, which is the good news of Jesus Christ, your son. He came to give us eternal life and we can be assured of this through his death on the cross and His resurrection into life. We recognize we are sinners and we ask you to forgive us. We declare Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for your love, which is unconditional and because you loved us we can also love one another. Help us to come before you with certainty that you hear our prayers. Father we pray for salvation today and if there is anyone who hasn't believed and confessed you as their lord and saviour yet, may this be day of a new birth. May we will be a fellowship of true believers in Jesus and not only traditional Christians. Lord I pray all these in your name. Amen

Song 3 – Because He Lives (Bill Gaither)

<https://youtu.be/4M-zwE33zHA> - Click on the link or copy and paste to your browser in order to hear and follow the song on YouTube.

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my saviour lives

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives
How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days, He lives*

And then one day, I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives

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

Have a blessed week and see you all next Sunday!