

Service Plan – Sunday 29 August 2021

- This service is designed for use in a small group setting, so will function differently with only 1 or 2 people. Feel free to adapt it to suit.
- It will be helpful if one person leads the gathering, and introduces each section using the suggested words, or take turns! There are some things to say together as well (in bold).
- You can access the songs and sermon by clicking on the links where they are found in the outline.

Introduction

As we meet together today, let's begin by giving thanks to our great God and Saviour who has called us into his church:

**Gracious God, we humbly thank you
for all your gifts so freely given to us,
for life and health and safety,
for power to work, leisure to rest,
and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life.
But above all, we praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ,
for his death and resurrection,
for the gift of your Spirit,
and for the hope of sharing in your glory.
Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Optional Song

10,000 Reasons - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Song

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Video (approx. 8 minutes)

The Sermon on the Mount (Part 2 - Do not murder) - [Overview with discussion Q's](#)

Quiz Worx Video - [Link](#)

Kids' Activity sheets are here: [Ages 2-4](#) | [Ages 5-8](#) | [Ages 9-12](#)

Bible Readings

The following, or another prayer may be said before the Bible readings

Gracious God,
your word is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword.
Today, when we hear your voice, deliver us from hardness of heart.
Help us to put away everything that keeps us from persevering in your way,
for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

1 Kings 22:29-40

²⁹ Then the king of Israel and Judah's King Jehoshaphat went up to Ramoth-gilead. ³⁰ But the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your royal attire." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³¹ Now the king of Aram had ordered his thirty-two chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone at all except the king of Israel."

³² When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they shouted, "He must be the king of Israel!" So they turned to fight against him, but Jehoshaphat cried out. ³³ When the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴ But a man drew his bow without taking special aim and struck the king of Israel through the joints of his armor. So he said to his charioteer, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am badly wounded!" ³⁵ The battle raged throughout that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. He died that evening, and blood from his wound flowed into the bottom of the chariot. ³⁶ Then the cry rang out in the army as the sun set, declaring:

Each man to his own city, and each man to his own land!

³⁷ So the king died and was brought to Samaria. They buried the king in Samaria. ³⁸ Then someone washed the chariot at the pool of Samaria. The dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes bathed in it, according to the word of the LORD that he had spoken.

³⁹ The rest of the events of Ahab's reign, along with all his accomplishments, including the ivory palace he built, and all the cities he built, are written in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings. ⁴⁰ Ahab rested with his ancestors, and his son Ahaziah became king in his place.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to regard them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ And we exhort you, brothers and sisters: warn those who are idle, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ See to it that no one repays evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good for one another and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray constantly, ¹⁸ give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Don't stifle the Spirit. ²⁰ Don't despise prophecies, ²¹ but test all things. Hold on to what is good. ²² Stay away from every kind of evil.

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely. And may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will do it. ²⁵ Brothers and sisters, pray for us also. ²⁶ Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brothers and sisters. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

Sermon

Dan Budd - [1 Thessalonians 5:12-28](#)

Optional time for discussion or reflection

Confession

Romans 3:23 tells us that “All of us have sinned and fall short of God’s glory”. Therefore God calls us to confess our sins, to him and to one another, to turn away from our sin and turn to Christ to receive his mercy and grace. So, let’s pray this prayer of confession together:

Heavenly Father,

**we praise you for adopting us as your children
and making us heirs of eternal life.**

**In your mercy you have washed us from our sins
and made us clean in your sight.**

Yet we still fail to love you and serve you as we should.

**Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace,
that we may continue to grow as members of Christ,
in whom alone is our salvation. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Merciful Father, we rejoice that you forgive those who truly repent and trust in your Son. Grant us true repentance and your Holy Spirit, that we may live godly and obedient lives, and finally come to your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer

Informal time of prayer or you could use some of the prayers below:

Dear Heavenly Father, praise be to you for you have opened our eyes to the wondrous light of the gospel. Thank you! Thank you for drawing us ever closer to you as we seek to serve you honestly, in the wisdom inspired by you, Oh Holy Spirit. We confess that if it were not for revelation of you through your mighty word and your mysterious ways, we would not know the importance of seeking you humbly and diligently, so that we come to worship only you in a world corrupted by many idols. Please keep our hearts focused on you dear Lord.

We think of our wardens today and pray that you might keep them well amidst COVID conditions and give them clarity about the many decisions that need to be made to help our church to function. Might they work well as a team. We ask that the whole Parish Council will make wise choices in the future and be encouraged by your guidance and comfort dear Holy Spirit. Please keep safe those builders working on our church site.

Lord, please bless single parents at this difficult time. Give them positive friendships and great comfort from your word. Calm all of their children and give them wonderful opportunities online and with creative home-based play. May these families be healthy and provided for.

Lord we are conscious of so many sick people all around us. Please provide the medicines and medical staff that are needed to treat them. Please be with the families involved and help them to be brave and sensible in taking the right precautions. Comfort those who are separated and help them to make constructive use of online tools.

We thank you Lord for the expert teaching from your word that is provided for us and all the online tools that help us understand your paths of righteousness, and give us comfort and hope amidst adversity. Please help us to stay focused, with priorities that please you.

Mighty Lord, thank you for encouraging us to bring our needs before you, confident that, although you are jealous for our worship and love with the power of a consuming fire, you are also gentle in your delight to mould us and bless us with the desires of our heart that accord with your perfect will. Praise be to you! Amen.

Let's conclude with 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 forever. Amen.**

Optional Song

This Life I Live - [Link](#)

Concluding Prayer

May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

What's Happening:

Notices video - [Link](#)

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and keep up to date on what is happening!

