

Service Plan – Sunday 24 October 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

See Him Coming - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Song

Isaiah 53:6 - [Link](#)

Optional Kid's Video (approx. 3 minutes)

'Union with Christ' - [Link](#)

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.**

Bible Reading 1

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.**

Lamentations 2:1-11

κ Aleph

¹ How the Lord has overshadowed Daughter Zion with his anger!
He has thrown down Israel's glory from heaven to earth.
He did not acknowledge his footstool in the day of his anger.

Ⲛ Beth

² Without compassion the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob.
In his wrath he has demolished the fortified cities of Daughter Judah.
He brought them to the ground and defiled the kingdom and its leaders.

ⲓ Gimel

³ He has cut off every horn of Israel in his burning anger
and withdrawn his right hand in the presence of the enemy.
He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire that consumes everything.

ⲧ Daleth

⁴ He has strung his bow like an enemy; his right hand is positioned like an adversary.
He has killed everyone who was the delight to the eye,
pouring out his wrath like fire on the tent of Daughter Zion.

ⲏ He

⁵ The Lord is like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel.
He swallowed up all its palaces and destroyed its fortified cities.
He has multiplied mourning and lamentation within Daughter Judah.

ⲓ Waw

⁶ He has wrecked his temple as if it were merely a shack in a field,
destroying his place of meeting.

The LORD has abolished appointed festivals and Sabbaths in Zion.
He has despised king and priest in his fierce anger.

r Zayin

⁷The Lord has rejected his altar, repudiated his sanctuary;
he has handed the walls of her palaces over to the enemy.
They have raised a shout in the house of the LORD as on the day of an appointed festival.

n Cheth

⁸The LORD determined to destroy the wall of Daughter Zion.
He stretched out a measuring line and did not restrain himself from destroying.
He made the ramparts and walls grieve; together they waste away.

v Teth

⁹Zion's gates have fallen to the ground;
he has destroyed and shattered the bars on her gates.
Her king and her leaders live among the nations, instruction is no more,
and even her prophets receive no vision from the LORD.

' Yod

¹⁰The elders of Daughter Zion sit on the ground in silence.
They have thrown dust on their heads and put on sackcloth.
The young women of Jerusalem have bowed their heads to the ground.

o Kaph

¹¹My eyes are worn out from weeping; I am churning within.
My heart is poured out in grief because of the destruction of my dear people,
because infants and nursing babies faint in the streets of the city.

What's Happening:

Notices Video - [Link](#)

Creed

Philippians 2:6–11

**Jesus Christ, in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,**

**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord.

Gracious God, forgive us each day as we make mistakes, think we know better than you, and make unwise decisions in how we treat people. Our human nature allows us to believe that we can do whatever we want, which is actually selfish and dishonouring to you. Please smash our pride and bring us to true repentance.

Almighty and eternal God, you alone work great marvels. Send down your gracious Spirit on all Christian people, especially our bishops and other pastors and the congregations in their care. Pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing that they may truly please you. In this, we particularly pray for Jim and Dan as they lead our church at Narellan. Teach them by your Word and mould them by your Spirit to enable them to bring you glory as they teach and serve us.

Lord God, we give you great thanks for the work of Anglicare in our community. Thank you for the many workers and volunteers who are compelled by your love to reach out to others. Please may these services and provisions allow people to experience your love in word and deed, bringing them into a relationship with you.

We also thank you for our Pastoral Care Team. Thank you for the many ways they reach out to us all to ensure we know we are cared for. Help them to listen carefully and be perceptive to needs. Help others to care for the team as well.

Loving God, we pray for those who are hurting or lonely, through bereavement, divorce, or abuse, and for those struggling with unhappiness in marriage or singleness.

Where repentance is required, make us willing. Where reconciliation is needed, make us quick to forgive, as you in Christ have forgiven us. Be our strength and comfort in every difficulty and struggle. Enable us all to experience your generous love, and be renewed in our relationship with you.

Lord God, look with mercy on all for whom increasing years bring isolation and distress. Give them understanding helpers and the willingness to receive what is offered. As their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. Help us as a church to know and care for all in this position.

As we enter this new week, please guide us, strengthen us and equip us to bring you glory in all that we do and say. 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.**

Bible Reading 2

Acts 20:13-21:14

¹³ We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul on board, because these were his instructions, since he himself was going by land. ¹⁴ When he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went on to Mitylene. ¹⁵ Sailing from there, the next day we arrived off Chios. The following day we crossed over to Samos, and the day after, we came to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, because he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, for the day of Pentecost.

¹⁷ Now from Miletus, he sent to Ephesus and summoned the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they came to him, he said to them, "You know, from the first day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility, with tears, and during the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ You know that I did not avoid proclaiming to you anything that was profitable or from teaching you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.

²² "And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, ²³ except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. ²⁴ But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace.

²⁵ "And now I know that none of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore I declare to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷ because I did not avoid declaring to you the whole plan of God. ²⁸ Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the

flock. ³⁰ Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure the disciples into following them. ³¹ Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each one of you with tears.

³² “And now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who are with me. ³⁵ In every way I’ve shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶ After he said this, he knelt down and prayed with all of them. ³⁷ There were many tears shed by everyone. They embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸ grieving most of all over his statement that they would never see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

21 After we tore ourselves away from them, we set sail straight for Cos, the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ² Finding a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we boarded and set sail. ³ After we sighted Cyprus, passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria and arrived at Tyre, since the ship was to unload its cargo there. ⁴ We sought out the disciples and stayed there seven days. Through the Spirit they told Paul not to go to Jerusalem. ⁵ When our time had come to an end, we left to continue our journey, while all of them, with their wives and children, accompanied us out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach to pray, ⁶ we said farewell to one another and boarded the ship, and they returned home.

⁷ When we completed our voyage from Tyre, we reached Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day. ⁸ The next day we left and came to Caesarea, where we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the Seven, and stayed with him. ⁹ This man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

¹⁰ After we had been there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ He came to us, took Paul’s belt, tied his own feet and hands, and said, “This is what the Holy Spirit says: ‘In this way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him over to the Gentiles.’” ¹² When we heard this, both we and the local people pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³ Then Paul replied, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

¹⁴ Since he would not be persuaded, we said no more except, “The Lord’s will be done.”

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

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Sermon

Graeme Sedorenko - [Acts 20:13-21:14](#)

Optional time for discussion or reflection

Optional Song

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me - [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.**

Comments? Questions? Feedback?

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