

Service Plan | Sunday 7 November

- 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

We have come together as the church of God to fix our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, to encourage one another to hold fast to the hope he has given us, and to spur one another on to love and good deeds.

Psalm 105 says:

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; proclaim his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell about all his wonderful works!”

Let’s now sing together:

Optional Song

I Cannot Tell - [Link](#)

Optional Kid’s Song

Big Bible Story - [Link](#)

Optional Kid’s Video (approx. 3 minutes)

The Innocent One - [Link](#)

Bible Readings

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

Open our hearts to receive your word, that we may know you better and be thoroughly equipped for every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lamentations 3:1-33

Ⲱ Aleph

3 I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of God’s wrath.

² He has driven me away and forced me to walk in darkness instead of light.

³ Yes, he repeatedly turns his hand against me all day long.

Ⲛ Beth

⁴ He has worn away my flesh and skin; he has broken my bones.

⁵ He has laid siege against me, encircling me with bitterness and hardship.

⁶ He has made me dwell in darkness like those who have been dead for ages.

ג Gimel

⁷ He has walled me in so I cannot get out; he has weighed me down with chains.

⁸ Even when I cry out and plead for help, he blocks out my prayer.

⁹ He has walled in my ways with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked.

ד Daleth

¹⁰ He is a bear waiting in ambush, a lion in hiding.

¹¹ He forced me off my way and tore me to pieces; he left me desolate.

¹² He strung his bow and set me as the target for his arrow.

ה He

¹³ He pierced my kidneys with shafts from his quiver.

¹⁴ I am a laughingstock to all my people, mocked by their songs all day long.

¹⁵ He filled me with bitterness, satiated me with wormwood.

ו Waw

¹⁶ He ground my teeth with gravel and made me cower in the dust.

¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is.

¹⁸ Then I thought, "My future is lost, as well as my hope from the LORD."

ז Zayin

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my homelessness, the wormwood and the poison.

²⁰ I continually remember them and have become depressed.

²¹ Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope:

ח Cheth

²² Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end.

²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

²⁴ I say, "The LORD is my portion, therefore I will put my hope in him."

ט Teth

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the person who seeks him.

²⁶ It is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD.

²⁷ It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is still young.

י Yod

²⁸ Let him sit alone and be silent, for God has disciplined him.

²⁹ Let him put his mouth in the dust— perhaps there is still hope.

³⁰ Let him offer his cheek to the one who would strike him;

let him be filled with disgrace.

כ Kaph

³¹ For the Lord will not reject us forever.

³² Even if he causes suffering, he will show compassion according to the abundance of his faithful love.

³³ For he does not enjoy bringing affliction or suffering on mankind.

Acts 21:37-22:29

³⁷ As he was about to be brought into the barracks, Paul said to the commander, "Am I allowed to say something to you?"

He replied, “You know how to speak Greek? ³⁸ Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt some time ago and led four thousand men of the Assassins into the wilderness?”

³⁹ Paul said, “I am a Jewish man from Tarsus of Cilicia, a citizen of an important city. Now I ask you, let me speak to the people.”

⁴⁰ After he had given permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great hush, he addressed them in Aramaic:

22 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you.” ² When they heard that he was addressing them in Aramaic, they became even quieter. ³ He continued, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strictness of our ancestral law. I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, arresting and putting both men and women in jail, ⁵ as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. After I received letters from them to the brothers, I traveled to Damascus to arrest those who were there and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “As I was traveling and approaching Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’

⁸ “I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ “I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’

“The Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do.’

¹¹ “Since I couldn’t see because of the brightness of the light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and went into Damascus. ¹² Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, who had a good reputation with all the Jews living there, ¹³ came and stood by me and said, ‘Brother Saul, regain your sight.’ And in that very hour I looked up and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our ancestors has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the words from his mouth, ¹⁵ since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

¹⁷ “After I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him telling me, ‘Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ “But I said, ‘Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in you imprisoned and beaten. ²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I stood there giving approval and guarding the clothes of those who killed him.’

²¹ “He said to me, ‘Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

²² They listened to him up to this point. Then they raised their voices, shouting, “Wipe this man off the face of the earth! He should not be allowed to live!”

²³ As they were yelling and flinging aside their garments and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, directing that he be interrogated with the scourge to discover the reason they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ As they stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing by, “Is it legal for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen and is uncondemned?”

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went and reported to the commander, saying, “What are you going to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.”

²⁷ The commander came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

“Yes,” he said.

²⁸ The commander replied, “I bought this citizenship for a large amount of money.”

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul said.

²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately. The commander too was alarmed when he realized Paul was a Roman citizen and he had bound him.

Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

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Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
he was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon

Jim Douglass - [Acts 21:37-22:29](#)

Optional time for discussion or reflection

Prayer

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

Dear Lord, we thank you and praise you for giving us the gift of life; that you created us to have a loving relationship with you through the sacrifice of your Son, our Lord. We thank you for the gift of relationships with each other, the joy of community and of belonging to the body of Christ, united in worshipping you as God and Father.

As we emerge from lockdown, help us, Jesus, to re-connect with others and to have the desire to see others come to know you as Saviour. Enable us to be aware of those around us looking to belong and be part of a community, that we will be willing to be used by you to point others towards you.

We pray for the continued work on our Church building, that new builders will settle in and be drawn towards you. We pray for safety on site and thank you for the provision of the builders and other workers. We pray the Church Wardens and Parish Council will have wisdom and insight into the complex and challenging decisions that have to be made.

Dear Lord, we pray for the Jewish people around the world. We pray that as they consider your Word, they will be moved to realise that Jesus is your Son come in the flesh to remove sin so that we can stand before you as part of your family, holy and blessed. We pray for missionaries and others who work within the Jewish culture to have the opportunity and conviction to proclaim Christ.

We bring before you the French family serving in Valencia, Spain, to continue their work in spreading the Gospel message. We pray that you will be with their children and provide opportunities to make meaningful friendships and that they will continue to grow up into Christ.

As borders worldwide continue to open, we pray that there will be increasing opportunities to spread your word, that missionaries and Christian agencies will be able to return and build on the work already done.

Dear Lord, we ask for your wisdom and guidance for our leadership team so that Jim, Dan, the Wardens and Parish Council may seek your way and strive to follow your lead.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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.**

What's Happening

Church News - [Link](#)

Optional Song

Be Thou My Vision - [Link](#)

Concluding Prayer

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

October Offertory Update

October Budget: \$28,097 | Actual Giving: \$26,923



Comments? Questions? Feedback?

You can let us know [HERE](#)

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and keep up to date on what is happening!

