



Morning Service

Sunday, 24th May 2020

We warmly welcome everyone to St Mary's this morning, whether you are a visitor or a regular member. Please take part in as much of the service as you feel comfortable with. The leader this morning is Tim Furlong and Clive Hawkins will be speaking on Acts 2:42-47, 'The Model Church'.

CONFESSION

Lord God,
we have sinned against You; we have done evil in Your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to Your love.
Wash away our wrong-doing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of Your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE CREED

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made all things?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in His Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 for ever. Amen.

THE GRACE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. WE ARE HIS KINGDOM, we are his
bride
For us he paid the price
For us he bled and died
We are his people, his treasured prize
For us he conquered sin
For he is risen

With thankfulness we will sing
With thankfulness we will sing

*So we declare the praises
Of Jesus Saviour and King
He is the cornerstone Hallelujah
And now we stand as his church
Until the day when he comes in glory
Hallelujah*

We are a priesthood, beloved ones
He draws the scattered near
He builds his kingdom here
A holy nation, now set apart
To be his hands and feet
To speak his mercy

With thankfulness we will sing
With thankfulness ...

*So we declare the praises
Of Jesus Saviour and King
He is the cornerstone Hallelujah
And now we stand as his church
Until the day when he comes in glory
Hallelujah*

With thankfulness we will sing
Adopted now we are his

Chorus x 2

Alanna Glover | Liv Chapman
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2. THE ONLY POWER that cleanses me
is in the blood of Jesus,
and as I look to Calvary, His sacrifice I
see.

*And anything that I might give
would always be too small
to ever pay the debt I owe
to Him who gave His life for me,
to Him who gave me all.*

The only love that sets me free is in the
heart of Jesus;
a heart so full of tenderness and
faithfulness to me.

And anything ...

I never cease to be amazed that He
should love, so dearly,
a child of such unworthiness, a sinner
such as me.

And anything ...

*So, Jesus, take this thankful heart,
although my gift is small.
And I will live to worship You,
because You gave Your life for me,
because You gave me all.*

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3. OH HOW GOOD IT IS

When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His
people.*

Oh how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging.

Chorus

Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another
Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit.

Chorus

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4. WHAT GIFT OF GRACE IS JESUS, my Redeemer

There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and
freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and
boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing all is
mine
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley, He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall
overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I
am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips
shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips
shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
When the race is complete, still my lips
shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Many of you will or have just studied this passage Acts 2:42-47 and **I attached the HGLBS Notes to my weekly letter.** These have the answers to the members' questions. **Please have them as we study together.** They express the goal that clergy and church leaders should energetically aspire to achieve, by the grace of God. Use them to assess our church, use it if you are moving and need to find a new Christian community, something I would advise you to do before buying a house.

But rather than just rehearse what I have written there I want to approach these few verses by posing 4 questions and discovering how Luke's description of the FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH answers them.

Here are the questions:

1. Why should we be devoted to the Apostles' teaching?
2. What is today's biggest problem and how is the church the solution?
3. How can I be right with God?
4. If this is the best news ever heard, how do I end up becoming a Christian?