

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 14 February 2021

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 951

Lord, for the years your love has kept and
guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and
provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which
fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us;
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and
nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world, when we disown and
doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him;
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may
reign.

5 Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake
us-
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Reading: James 4:11-5:6, ESV

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbour?

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¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

⁵ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Hymn: Praise! 944

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

2 Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,
work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills,
land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,
voices to plead the cause of those who can't
speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,
give us compassion we pray:
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain;
come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

3 Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share,
peace to the killing fields, scorched earth to
green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

4 Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and
streams,
plundered and poisoned, our future, our
dreams,
Lord end our madness, carelessness, greed,
make us content with the things that we need.

God of the poor...

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5 Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
until your justice burns brightly again,
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

God of the poor...

Graham Kendrick

Prayer

Hymn

By faith, we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design;
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

2 By faith, our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand –
A place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise,
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

3 By faith, the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the power to break the chains of sin and
death,
And rise triumphant from the grave.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

4 By faith, the church was called to go
In the power of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
In every corner of the earth.

We will stand...

5 By faith, this mountain shall be moved
And the power of the gospel shall prevail,
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

We will stand...

Sermon: James 4:11-5:6 – On Boasting and Reality

1. Worldliness in Practice

2. Our Boasts

3. The Reality

4. Humility and Wisdom

Hymn: Praise! 967

Hear the church triumphant singing,

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

Highest heaven with praises ringing,

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

Thrones and powers before him bending,

odours sweet with voice ascending

swell the chorus never-ending:

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

2 Every tongue and tribe and nation-

worthy the Lamb!-

join to sing the great salvation:

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

Loud as mighty thunders roaring,

floods of mighty waters pouring,

worship, at his feet adoring:

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

3 Harps and songs for ever sounding:

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

Sin destroyed by grace abounding-

worthy the Lamb!

By his blood he dearly bought us,

when we strayed he came and sought us

and to glory safely brought us;

worthy the Lamb!

4 Sing with glad anticipation

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

through the vale of tribulation,

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

Sweetest music, all-excelling,

on his love for ever dwelling,

still untold, though ever telling:

‘Worthy the Lamb!’

John Kent (1766-1843)

Closing Prayer