

Yateley Baptist Church, Sunday 20 June 2021

Opening Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 281

All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Before him angels fall,

before him angels fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

2 Crown him, you martyrs of our God,

who for his justice call,

who for his justice call;

exalt the one whose path you trod,

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

3 Descendants of his chosen race,

redeemed from Adam's fall,

redeemed from Adam's fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace,

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love cannot forget

the bitterness and gall,

the bitterness and gall,

go, spread your offerings at his feet

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let every people, nation, tribe,

on this terrestrial ball,

on this terrestrial ball,

to him all majesty ascribe

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

6 O that in heaven, with this great throng,

we at his feet may fall,

we at his feet may fall,

join in the everlasting song

and crown him, crown him,

crown him, crown him,

and crown him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet & John Rippon

Reading: Acts 24, ESV

And after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and a spokesman, one Tertullus. They laid before the governor their case against Paul. ² And when he had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying:

“Since through you we enjoy much peace, and since by your foresight, most excellent Felix, reforms are being made for this nation, ³ in every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. ⁴ But, to detain you no further, I beg you in your kindness to hear us briefly. ⁵ For we have found this man a plague, one who stirs up riots among all the Jews throughout the world and is a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶ He even tried to profane the temple, but we seized him. ⁸ By examining him yourself you will be able to find out from him about everything of which we accuse him.”

⁹ The Jews also joined in the charge, affirming that all these things were so.

¹⁰ And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied:

“Knowing that for many years you have been a judge over this nation, I cheerfully make my defence. ¹¹ You can verify that it is not more than twelve days since I went up to worship in Jerusalem, ¹² and they did not find me disputing with anyone or stirring up a crowd, either in the temple or in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³ Neither can they prove to you what they now bring up against me. ¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, ¹⁵ having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. ¹⁶ So I always take pains to have a clear conscience towards both God and man. ¹⁷ Now after several years I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings. ¹⁸ While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia— ¹⁹ they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me. ²⁰ Or else let these men themselves say what wrongdoing they found when I stood before the council, ²¹ other than this one thing that I cried out while standing among them: ‘It is with respect to the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you this day.’”

²² But Felix, having a rather accurate knowledge of the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the tribune comes down, I will decide your case.” ²³ Then he gave orders to the centurion that he should be kept in custody but have some liberty, and that none of his friends should be prevented from attending to his needs.

²⁴ After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him

Continues on next page →

speaking about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgement, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you." ²⁶ At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. ²⁷ When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favour, Felix left Paul in prison.

Hymn

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.
O, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is
mine!

Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

2 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.
O, the night has been won and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

3 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;
O, the chains are released; I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

4 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!'

*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!'

Michael Farren & Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson

Sermon: Acts 24 – Suffering for the Saviour’s Sake

“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.” (1 Peter 2:19)

1. Baseless Accusations

2. A Confident Defence

3. Justice Delayed

Hymn: Praise! 178

Great is the gospel of our glorious God,
where mercy met the anger of God’s rod;
a penalty was paid and pardon bought
and sinners lost at last to him were brought:

*O let the praises of my heart be thine,
for Christ has died that I may call him mine,
that I may sing with those who dwell above,
adoring, praising Jesus, King of love.*

William Vernon Higham (b. 1926)

2 Great is the mystery of godliness,
great is the work of God’s own holiness;
it moves my soul and causes me to long
for greater joys than to the earth belong:

3 The Spirit vindicated Christ our Lord,
and angels sang with joy and sweet accord;
the nations heard, a dark world flamed with
light—
when Jesus rose in glory and in might:

Prayer

Hymn: Praise! 287

At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
this the Father's pleasure,
that we call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

2 At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces,
all the hosts of light;
suns and moons in orbit,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders,
in their great array.

3 Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came;
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.

4 Name him, Christians, name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath;
he is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.

5 In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour,
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory
evermore to reign;
rulers of the nations
at his throne shall bow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Caroline M Noel (1817-1877)

Closing Prayer