

Service Transcript

25th April 2021

Opening words:

Listen up, all you people! Pay attention! Everyone...from highest to lowest, the proud and humble together, tune your ears to hear good news! Christ is revealed in worship!

***All: We come with hope and open ears to meet the One who is our all in all.
Come Lord Jesus!***

Although we continue as a world to live through difficult times we can invite God to be with us in these times, to guide, comfort and renew. Let us do that in the chorus of this next song which cries out to God "Come Lord Jesus"

742 Great is the darkness

Great is the darkness that covers the earth, oppression, injustice and pain.
Nations are slipping in hopeless despair, though many have come in Your name.
Watching while sanity dies, touched by the madness and lies.

***Chorus: Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Pour out Your Spirit we pray.
Come, Lord Jesus, Come, Lord Jesus, Pour out Your Spirit on us today.***

May now Your church rise with power and love, this glorious gospel proclaim.
In every nation salvation will come to those who believe in Your name.
Help us bring light to this world that we might speed Your return. ***Chorus:***

Great celebrations on that final day when out of the heavens You come.
Darkness will vanish, all sorrow will end, and rulers will bow at Your throne.
Our great commission complete, then face to face we shall meet. ***Chorus:***

Reflection:

John 1 says: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

It's like John in the first words of his gospel should give us a spoiler alert: the world can be a dark place but Jesus is light and will overcome it. Pretty much everything that follows is the narrative of those first words. Jesus is the light of the world.

Let's say these words together.

Prayer: Jesus, light of the world, We welcome You here today. Open our eyes to see You, That we might worship and adore You. Amen.

1419 Light of the world

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.

***Chorus: So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God; And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.***

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above;
Humbly You came to the earth You created, all for love's sake became poor. ***Chorus:***

And I'll never know how much it cost; to see my sin upon that cross. *(Repeat)* ***Chorus:***

Reflection:

I have worked with children for a long time, and there was a song I sang with my children
and differing children's clubs I worked with and it goes like this:

When The Road Is Rough And Steep - Fix Your Eyes Upon Jesus - He Alone Has Power To
Keep - Fix Your Eyes Upon Him - Jesus Is A Gracious Friend - One On Whom You Can Depend
- He Is Faithful To The End - Fix Your Eyes Upon Him

Each generation has found its own way to tell this truth, that Jesus is the light in darkness
and in dark times we need to choose to fix our eyes upon Him. This next song is quite new
and this generations way of reminding us of that need to choose to focus on God in the
storms of life.

2887 My lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through. You
are the peace in my troubled sea – Whoa You are the peace in
my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go. In the questions your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through.
You are the peace in my troubled sea –Whoa
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

***Chorus: My lighthouse, my lighthouse, shining in the darkness, I will follow you.
My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise
You will carry me – safe to shore. Safe to shore – safe to shore – Safe to shore.***

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll rise and sing.
My God's love will lead me through. You
are the peace in my troubled sea – Whoa You are
the peace in my troubled sea. ***Chorus:***

Fire before us. You're the brightest. You will lead us through the storm. (sing 4 times)
Chorus:

Session 2

Today it's the questions of the heart: "How am I going to get through this?" and we're going to look at Jesus on Maundy Thursday in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Bible passages from the session

Mark 14:32-37, Psalm 23, Romans 5:3-4

Key points

- We can learn 4 keys to coping with despair from Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane:
Place, People, Prayer, Purpose
- Jesus isn't just dying for us, He's suffering with us
- Find a purpose in the pain when you can, and find a purpose in spite of the pain when you can't

"I don't want to remain in this place of sorrow and anger... I want to choose life again, and I want to find life again." – Simon Thomas

Closing song: SOF 92 Into the Darkness

Into the darkness of this world, into the shadows of the night;
Into this loveless place You came, lightened our burdens, eased our pain,
And made these hearts Your home.
Into the darkness once again – Oh, come, Lord Jesus, come.

***Chorus: Come with Your love to make us whole,
Come with Your light to lead us on,
Driving the darkness far from our souls: O come, Lord Jesus, come.***

Into the longing of our souls, into these heavy hearts of stone,
Shine on us now Your piercing light, order our lives and souls aright,
By grace and love unknown,
Until in You our hearts unite – Oh, come, Lord Jesus, come. ***Chorus:***

O Holy Child, Emmanuel, hope of the ages, God with us,
Visit again this broken place, till all the earth declares Your praise
And Your great mercies own. Now let Your love be born in us, O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Come in Your glory, take Your place, Jesus, the Name above all names, we long to see You face to face, O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Responsive prayer:

In the darkness before creation, you made all that lives and breathes.
In the darkness of Mary's womb, you formed Jesus, bringer of light.
In the darkness of our world your spirit sustains us.

All: O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

In the stillness of the dark, we pray for all who need God's presence in a special way: People who cannot find work, who cannot pay their bills, who have no place to live, people who are discouraged and hopeless, people who have become cynical and bitter.

All: O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

We live in this world in our bodies, we rejoice in life and breath, yet when sickness or pain cripples us, we lose our bearings, we feel lost and bewildered. We need your presence to keep us safe. Be with those who are sick, grant them your peace and comfort, healing and strength

All: O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.

Your presence sustains us, help us to go from worship this morning, having seen your face, having worshipped you and having been renewed.

All: We are confident in the work you are doing in us and through us, for your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

For Reflection & Discussion

Bible passages from the session

Mark 14:32-37, Psalm 23, Romans 5:3-4

1. What did you find most helpful, inspiring or challenging in what Pete Greig, Gemma Hunt and Simon Thomas shared?
2. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus shares with his friends that "[His] soul is overwhelmed to the point of death" – what are the barriers or obstacles you face when sharing honestly or openly with friends? Would anyone be willing to share about a time in which their soul felt 'overwhelmed'?
3. What happens to your prayer life when you are feeling overwhelmed or upset? What do you notice that you do differently?
4. Pete Greig says, "God does not leave us to suffer alone" – is this something that you have experienced? Where has God met you in your suffering?
5. Do you think that it's possible for everyone to find a purpose in – or in spite of – their pain?

Finally, Pete Greig talks about the holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl and the importance of finding some kind of purpose in spite of our pain.

Take a minute or two in the silence to reflect on an area of suffering you have experienced, consider ways in which you have been able to find – or might be able to find – some kind of purpose in it or in spite of it.