

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21ST 2021

Welcome, notices etc

- Reminder of Christmas services – 12th nativity, 19th Carol service, 25th Christmas morning – no service on 26th (Sunday – Boxing Day)
- Result of deacons/elders election/confirm and thanks

Birthdays

Today we are joined by Paul and Sarah Brown, our link missionaries. Unfortunately because of restrictions they can't be with us in person, but have sent a video which we will watch later in the service.

Call to worship

Daniel 7 : 13,14

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

SONG Blessing and honour (glory and power be unto the ancient of days)

As we look to the future weeks, to Advent – we remember God's immeasurable love for us, that He sent His son into the world as a baby, to grow to a man, to die the most cruel death but to rise again – bringing us salvation, forgiveness and hope – and leaving His Holy Spirit with us to guide us and intercede for us.

Prayer and declaration of thanksgiving

*ALL All divisions are gone!
Heaven and earth are one – Hallelujah!*

*LEADER Nothing separates us from our God.
We dwell in Him and He is us.
Christ has come down, taking our flesh,
We are raised to the highest heaven.*

*ALL God has taken our nature upon Him
That we may share in His divinity.
Hallelujah!*

*LEADER Christ beyond time and yet in this moment,
Christ entering our world, yet beyond space,
Christ sharing in our mortality, yet eternal,
You have come down to lift us up.*

*ALL We bow before you and rejoice in your presence.
Hallelujah!*

*Praise to You, Triune God of love,
Praise to You, giver of all life.*

*Praise to You, Prince of Peace,
Praise to You, indwelling Spirit.
Praise to You, holy and blessed three.
Hallelujah!*

God loves us with immeasurable love – and He showed it when He gave us His Son to be our Saviour so that we would never again be separated from Him.
So we sing :

SONG

Thank You for saving me

Reading (a reminder of how blessed we are)

***God loves you
just the way you are,
in spite of all your flaws,
no matter how many times
you've let him down,
or how far you have
wandered away from His arms.
Even if you think you are not worthy,
God loves you unconditionally.***

***If you could
feel God's love for you
even for a second,
your heart would not be able
to contain it.
It is beyond powerful,
its depth is immeasurable.***

***He loves you supernaturally,
beyond your comprehension,
and above the world's understanding
of what love is.
There is nothing
that anyone can say or think about you that
can take that away from you, not even you.
There is no circumstance, calamity
or disaster where God's love
cannot reach you
and hold you.***

***Therefore do not be troubled
in the darkness,
have no fear in the storm.
Never think for a minute,
that He has abandoned or forgotten you.
He comforts and he rescues you.
You are the one He died for
because he didn't want
to live without you.***

This is the reality of God's love for us.

And this is the message we need to pass on to others - this is the message that the world needs to hear. Maybe we can't take it to all lands, but there are people who have been called to do just that – we hear from 2 of them in a little while.

But we sing now and offer ourselves to Him, the One who paid it all.
That is the only response we can give to such love.

Song You stood before Creation

Prayers of intercession

for people in fellowship,
for the town,
for the country,
for the world

We continue in prayer as we sing this old hymn –

Song Father hear the prayer we offer

BMS World Mission is a Christian **mission** organisation, working in around 30 countries on four continents. BMS workers and partners strive every day to make Jesus known and share the full life he brings. From legal work to surgery, food projects to education, BMS works with local partners, providing help where it is most needed, among the most marginalised and least evangelised people in the world.

As I said at the start of the service, speaking to us this morning are Paul and Sarah Brown, our link missionaries from BMS.

This is a great opportunity for us to find out what they are doing, and learn something of their work and the people they care about and work amongst.

The Browns – video

A TIME OF PRAYER

We have been asked - DO WE SEE THEM?

Let us now in our prayers recognise the needs we've heard of, and what Paul and Sarah are asking of us – so that we can say, yes, we do see them – and we care.

Pray for the continued work at Night Light International – for the residents and staff – for wisdom for them to know how best to reach out into the communities they serve

Pray for Paul and Sarah's transition to the Thailand Karen Baptist Convention and the work they'll be doing there

Pray for Paul and Sarah's health – that they will be strong enough to continue the work ahead of them – teaching English, computer skills, bakery and leading different groups and giving discipleship training.

Pray for their families when they go back to Thailand – for their natural concerns for them

Pray for continued financial support for BMS and all the organisations they work with and serve. Without enough money the work cannot continue – the God called work to love our neighbours, in every way possible, and to take the Gospel to all people.

AMEN

We are called to follow Him – we are called to serve – we are called to love each other, to put others before ourselves.

So we sing:

Song **Brother sister let me serve you**

Benediction

*Gracious God,
Your love sustains us through all things.
Confident in this we pray for each other, and for all who love you.*

*In all the things that we find hard in life
We pray that we may know your faithful love and empowering presence.
Defend us from all evil,
Keep us faithful in times of trial,
Abounding in hope and filled with mercy,
Disciples of Jesus Christ and ambassadors for the gospel.*

*Send Your Holy Spirit to empower and equip us for service,
To transform us into the likeness of Jesus
And to be ever His true disciples.
This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The head of the church and the Lord of all.*

*ALL And
 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
 And the love of God
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all – now and always.
 AMEN*
