

Service Transcript 16th January 2022

Welcome, Notices, Birthday Box

There are times when we don't just get good ideas, we get God ideas – something that the Holy Spirit inspires us with and when we act on them blessed things happen. THE COMPASS is one of those ideas. It's a local Christian charity founded about a year ago and it's had quite an impact here in Felixstowe. We welcome Gemma and Dee from The Compass this morning and they are going to tell us what it's about which I will hope inspires us, that despite the difficulties we have in our community and society at the moment, God is very much at work.

PRAYER Let's come before God this morning in prayer.

Father

We come before You this morning, and our desire is to give You glory because of who You are and what You have done for us in Christ and all that You are continuing to do in our lives and in Your Church by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

As we worship may You open our minds to Your greatness, Your power, Your love, Your holiness Your forgiveness, Your grace and goodness. Give us freedom in Your Spirit to worship You, that the One who is exalted high above all things will be exalted in each of our hearts and minds today. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

EVERYTHING CRIES HOLY

In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John has a vision of the exalted Jesus. He describes Him as the Lamb – a reference to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He is surrounded amongst others by a vast worshipping multitude of angels. Why do they worship the Lamb as if it had been slain? Because Jesus is worthy of all praise because of what He achieved on the cross. Let me read you some verses from Revelation 5. (A video song will come up: please remain seated but join in if you know it.

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. Rev 5:6

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!" Rev 5:12

Verses merge into

Everything cries holy (video)

In my series on greatness, God is great because He is, but in Christ we see that other kind of greatness that this multitude of angels recognise and cry *"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"* The

greatness of Jesus is in who He is and what He's done. Let's raise our voices as we sing Above All Powers.

TITLE

1151 Above all powers

As His people we can also come before God, not in fear because of our own sin and failure, but in the name of Jesus because by faith we have identified with Him, we follow Him, we trust Him, and no accuser can ever point a finger at us and condemn us because Jesus' work completely saved us. That's why the angels sing, and why we worship. Let's continue with a hymn that explores this.

1187 Before the throne of God above

TITLW

There's another implication to being able to come before God and plead the name of Jesus and His shed blood. We can come and pray for others, for difficult situations. Jesus is powerful. His name is currency in heaven. VERSE He said *"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son"*. It is a statement, a promise of Jesus. It's one of those fabulous promises in the Bible that we seriously don't take seriously! Few Christians do. How can I say such a bold thing? Because if we did, our neighbourhood, our community, our nation and our world would be a different place. This is a promise of Jesus – and it works but it's a promise often unclaimed. Yet there have been those rather too rare occasions where the church of God has responded to this promise and the result is always astonishing. I'm not preaching today so I will leave it for you to think of those times in our generation where the Holy Spirit has been poured out in power. Our God is great; He calls us to be a great people and things happen when we respond to His promises.

Int. Prayer

Logic should therefore tell you that we are going to pray at this point. I will pray for a few issues here and we shall pray for The Compass later.

Coronavirus

Father we lift our nation before You as we continue to pray about the pandemic.

We pray for health workers under pressure and for others involved in public health as they tackle Covid-19.

We pray that you will bring peace and truth into situations where the pandemic has brought hurt and division, whether that be injustices in the vaccination supply between rich and poor countries, abuse of the regulations by those in authority, flouting of the rules by those who believe they know better and the spreading of untruth.

We pray for those who have suffered bereavement and loss because of Covid, comfort them and be close to them. We think of families under financial pressure because of jobs lost and the hike in prices.

Lord help us to be a people who bring Your wisdom and love into our community as we continue to deal with the present uncertainties and fears we find.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

We pray for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which we usually shorten to Unity Week. Here's four things you can do this week to remember that we are part of the body of Christ worldwide and in our local community and that this church fellowship is not an island.

Activities.

Thank You Father that we are united with fellow believers in the four corners of the world. As we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church, we know that You have revealed yourself through Your creation and invited all people to recognise You, not just in creation, but through Your Son who entered this world as a baby that He may grow up into the man who would bring salvation to all who would trust and follow Him through His death and resurrection.

Just as Magi from the East came to worship Jesus the child, may we worship Him as Saviour and Lord this week as we come to pray with others that together as church. Through our prayers, through our witness, through our service and through our worship, may we make Jesus more visible in our community and in this world. Help us to understand that as the Body of Christ, we can do so much more to serve Your purposes together than we can do apart.

We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives, we offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us. In our town, may our neighbours and friends see more of the visible unity of the church, not just in activities churches do together, but in the way the body of Christ brings hope through words and actions together. We do this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Let's take a few moments to pray for our own church at this time. You can see what we need to pray for in the sheet. We will take a few moments whilst a short piece of music plays to remember in silent prayer, people who need to experience God in their lives and other things.

We bring these prayers before You in Jesus' name

Amen.

Finally we pray for ourselves as we remain seated and ask Jesus to be the centre of our lives, not just in words but in every aspect of our being.

1377 Jesus be the centre

The Compass

Prayer for the Compass

God is at work in us He's at work in His church. He is at work in our community. We give Him praise. Hearing this kind of encouragement, prompts us to pray more enthusiastically. Remember that promise of Jesus earlier? Jesus said: ***I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son". John 16:23***

Let's affirm that in our final song this morning.

1404 King of Kings, majesty

Blessing

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.