

1st November 2020

Hearsall at Home

Hello, and welcome to Hearsall at Home.

Our time of fellowship this Sunday is on Zoom from 11:30am.

Please go to:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85454368639>

Meeting ID: 851 6681 8535

No password is required for this session.

And now let us commune with God and with all faithful believers.

Order of Service for 1st Nov 2020

All Saints

Introduction

Our service today is especially for All Saints day. The calendar is a bit of a muddle this weekend for simple free church folk like me. All Saints Day, 1st November, is for remembering those Christians designated *saints* by official church authorities. As Baptists, we keep to the biblical language, that *all* Christians are saints. I am wary of the programme of making religious celebrities - saints - out of notably prominent believers. Tomorrow, 2nd November, is All Souls Day, for remembering all faithful Christians who have died. On reflection, I might have called our service today, All Souls Day. Anyway, we use the season as an opportunity to remember those who have died, and to reflect on death, life, heaven and eternity. Oh, and don't get me started on Halloween...

Call to Worship

Anyway, God promises a new heaven and new earth where all his faithful can live...

Revelation 21: 1 - 5a

Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling-place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death" or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

5 He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'

So we sing of all those who have died and are safe with God in the perpetual newness of his kingdom... *For all the saints...*

Hymn (BPW 478) **For All the Saints**

For all the saints, who from their labours rest;
who in the world by faith their Lord confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
you, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight,
you in the darkness their unfailing light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine,
yet all are yours and all in praise combine,

Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
far off we hear the distant triumph-song;
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west:
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest,
the peaceful calm of paradise the blessed.

Alleluia, alleluia!

But look! there breaks a still more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way!

Alleluia, alleluia!

From Earth's wide bounds, from dawn to setting sun,
through heaven's gates to God, the three in one,
they come, to sing the song on Earth begun:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers

Loving God, you are the Lord of life and, in your grace, you receive us into your eternal care. We thank you that all life comes from you and that all life returns to you.

We remember with thankful hearts those who have died. We take a moment to whisper their names before you now...

Thank you that we can trust to your perfect mercy, wisdom, justice and love all those who have died. We praise and adore you. Your love is greater than our fear, your hope dwarfs our despair, your presence answers to our loneliness. We adore you, God of tender mercy and loving kindness, God of truth and grace, God of majesty and holiness.

We only enter your presence because we know you have forgiven us by the blood of Jesus, our Saviour. We acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins. Forgive us and reassure us that we remain your beloved children along with all the saints throughout time and beyond. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We rejoice greatly, for Jesus brought us together to be a living family of endless love... Jesus put this song into our hearts...

Song (WT 239) **Jesus put this Song into our Hearts**

6

1. Jesus put this song into our hearts,
Jesus put this song into our hearts.
It's a song of joy no one can take away.
Jesus put this song into our hearts.

2. Jesus taught us how to live in harmony,
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.
Different faces, different races, He made us one;
Jesus taught us how to live in harmony.
3. Jesus taught us how to be a family,
Jesus taught us how to be a family.
Loving one another with love that He give;
Jesus taught us how to be a family.
4. Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing,
Jesus turned our sorrow into dancing;
Changed our tears of sadness into rivers of joy;
Jesus turned our sorrow into a dance.
5. La la la la

Doors Ajar this week comes from our lovely singer and musician, Fran...

Hi everyone,

Fran Pritchard here! I think the last time you heard from me it was the start of the school summer holidays, so I was feeling quite free and ready to explore the local countryside. Now I have just finished the first half term back at school and the summer seems like a distant memory!

It has all been rather strange but I'm gradually getting used to working in a different way. For those of you who don't know, I'm a primary school teacher with a slight difference. For half of the week I teach in different classes while the main class teachers have their planning time, and for the other half of the week I become the school instrumental teacher. For this part of my role I teach small groups of children the guitar, piano, violin, ukulele, recorder and trumpet. This year I have got 97 children learning instruments, so I'm pretty pleased with that!

In order to make my music teaching COVID-safe I have had to spend a lot of time writing and re-writing risk assessments and preparing my teaching space

accordingly. I have had to divide the room into a big grid using tape on the floor to ensure that every child has their own 2 metre box to sit or stand in, I have to provide the keyboard players with anti-bacterial wipes so that they can clean the shared instruments after their lessons and, by far the biggest inconvenience, I have to teach the children from behind a giant Perspex screen – this has been rather challenging, especially when trying to explain to a group of 6 year olds where to find middle C on their keyboard or to get a beginner violinist to realise that they are actually holding the violin and bow in the wrong hands! Although it is not always ideal, I do feel very grateful that I'm still able to do what I love and share the joy of music with as many children as I possibly can each week!

After Christmas I made the decision to go down to 4 days a week at school, as I had started to expand my private music teaching at home. However, on the arrival of the Corona virus most of this had to come to a halt. I have managed to carry on teaching a couple of my pupils online but the whole experience is completely different.

In March my parents bought Seb a pair of tap shoes for his birthday after hearing that as a little boy he had dreamt of becoming a tap dancer. So over lockdown I saw it as my job to teach him a few of the basics and now we have enrolled on a tap dancing class together, which we attend on a Friday mornings (my day off). The attending a dance class experience has obviously had to change somewhat and we all have our allotted 2 metre square to dance inside. It can feel a bit lonely being so far away from everyone else in the room, but Seb is doing very well and has made excellent progress – in the last week he has even mastered an American Roll!

We are still very much enjoying the weekly challenge of recording the Hearsall hymns and since I last spoke to you, I have learnt such a lot about all of the recording equipment, and occasionally Seb has even left me completely in charge of the editing and mixing of the tracks!

For those of you who know my Granny, Ruth, you will be pleased to know that she has settled in well at Victoria Gardens and is even a member of the residents' committee. Although I miss seeing her every day, it is such a relief to know that she is being well looked after and we are all able to have window visits with her each week.

Although most of the time I have been trying my best to stay positive and get on with life, I have found myself increasingly struggling with the fact that I can't give all of my favourite people a cuddle. So I'd just like to give a public virtual hug to my Mum and Dad, Maria, Rufus, Laurie and, although it's embarrassing to admit, even Chris. I miss you all so much and although I am so grateful for our garden visits, I really can't wait until I can give you all a big cuddle again.

I'm going to seamlessly slip in a little advert now. I just wanted to talk to you about the Hearsall Carol Service. Seb and I have come up with an idea to get more people involved in the singing for Christmas, and we'd like to invite you all to take part in a Hearsall virtual choir performance.

This invitation is open to everybody, not just those who usually sing in the choir. I have chosen three of the traditional carols that everyone knows the tune to (Once in Royal David's City, O Little Town of Bethlehem and Hark the Herald Angels Sing). The idea is that we record ourselves singing each of the carols in our own homes and then the videos will all be put together to make a choir. I just think it would be really lovely for us all to be able to see and hear each other singing together at Christmas time!

Those of you on the mailing list should have received an email explaining this in a bit more detail, but if you haven't received this and would like to find out more, please do get in touch.

My email address is frances_pritchard89@hotmail.co.uk If you would like to be involved please could you let me know by Monday 2nd November.

Thanks for listening!

Thanks Fran for sharing with us. So, will you accept the invitation and join our virtual choir. I hope so!

And now we enjoy singing your praise in the song, *You are the King of Glory...*

Song (WT 485) **You are the King of Glory**

Verse

You are the King of glory;
You are the Prince of Peace;
You are the Lord of heav'n and earth;
You're the Son of righteousness.
Angels bow down before You,
Worship and adore
For You have the words of eternal life,
You are Jesus Christ, the Lord.

Chorus

Hosanna to the Son of David;
Hosanna to the King of kings;
Glory in the highest heaven
For Jesus, the Messiah, reigns.

Verse again and Chorus X 2

Offering

As our cries of Hosanna echo in our hearts, we joyfully remember the privilege of giving to God's work. Father God, for all your gifts to us we bless you. Receive our simple gifts, which only come from your bounty, and help our sharing to announce and demonstrate your kingdom of everlasting love. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession Eric Bremner

Our intercessions this week are led by our dear brother, Eric.

Almighty Father, Light of the World, Jesus, the light of the World, we thank you for that light. We thank you that in Jesus we are also lights of the World. Help us in all that we say and do to be the children of light and have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness, as you have commanded.

We pray for our world leaders; we pray that their focus and decisions are guided

by the light; that they make positive, intelligent decisions guided by the best advice available. We pray that your light might be shone on the darkness of corrupt leaders who place their interests before that of their people, and expose them.

At this time in history when events are consumed by coronavirus, we ask that our scientists, immunologists and researchers minds be illuminated by your light. We thank you for their hard work and dedication and look forward with hope for an effective vaccination for the virus. Help us to cling to that light at the end of the tunnel AND when the dark despair of the current pandemic will fall away.

We pray for our doctors and nurses and all health care workers, we hold them up to your light and ask for their continued safety and wellbeing. We pray for all our UK people who are unable to get speedy treatment for many illnesses, keep them safe until they can be treated. Help us to be thankful for what we have and not dwell on these delays but to think and pray for others not so fortunate as we are. We pray especially for the people of Yemen who have less ICU beds for their 30 million people than does our City of Coventry.

We pray that in our response to the virus we will be on the Team of Light, those that are doing all they can to restrict the spread of the virus and not the team of darkness, constantly complaining about their own personal restrictions. We pray for those who are struggling with isolation but thank you Lord that we have homes to remain safe. We pray especially for those who have no roof over their head or are shut in against their will, often in very poor conditions.

We pray for the members and friends of our Church; we miss each other's smiling faces and warm greetings; may they return in due course. We uphold them in prayer; please keep them safe.

We pray for family and friends who have gone before us; we miss them very much. We thank you for their lives and for their contribution to our lives, in our memories they will always be here.

Lord, we pray your light will continue to shine through the darkness, whatever the form the darkness takes, and that we continue in Your Light. Amen

Thanks so much Eric for those prayers.

Our Bible readings today come from Revelation and from Matthew.

Revelation 7: 9 - 17

The great multitude in white robes

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.’

¹¹ All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

‘Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!’

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

¹⁴ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ “Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,”
nor any scorching heat.
¹⁷ For the Lamb at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd;
“he will lead them to springs of living water.”
“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Matthew 5: 1 - 12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

- ³ ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

So, who belongs in the kingdom? The meek, the poor in spirit, those who hunger for justice. That can mean leaving behind the usual earthly securities. Let's sing *Come with me, come wander...*

Song (BPW 333) **Come with Me, come Wander**

1. Come with me, come wonder, come welcome the world
Where strangers might smile or where stones may be hurled;
Come leave what you cling to, lay down what you clutch
And find, with hands empty, that hearts can hold much.

Chorus – Sing hey for the carpenter leaving his tools!
Sing hey for the Pharisees leaving their rules!
Sing hey for the fishermen leaving their nets!
Sing hey for the people who leave their regrets!

2. Come walk in my company, come sleep by my side,
Come savour a lifestyle with nothing to hide;
Come sit at my table and eat with my friends,
Discovering that love which the world never ends.

3. Come share in my laughter, come close to my fears,
Come find yourself washed with the kiss of my tears;
Come stand close at hand while I suffer and die
And find in three days how I never will lie.

4. Come leave your possessions, come share out your treasure,
Come give and receive without method or measure;
Come loose every bond that's resisting the Spirit,
Enabling the Earth to be yours to inherit.

And now, O Lord, may my words bring encouragement and challenge according to our needs. Amen.

Sermon
All Saints

Bob Dylan sang, *there's a slow, slow train coming...* Death is on its way.

Often we think of ourselves as inevitably moving *towards* death. Our lives might be seen as packing as much stuff as possible in, before death occurs. This is the mentality of the bucket list.

But the Christian has *already died*, at least according to Romans 6. *We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?* Christians have already died, so they are moving away from death and into eternal life.

I heard about preacher Jackie Chan, who had a huge length of rope on stage with the last little section marked in red. The red bit was our earthly lives... The rest was eternity... So many spend all their days thinking about this little red section at the start that they forget the rest of the length of rope... All eternity

When we're kids we might be afraid of death as it first rears its head. But this future event, which in spite of Damian Hirst's artwork *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*, well this event needs to be accepted.

We meet it when the people we loved die before we do. Who do you think of first when I refer to *the dead*? A partner? A parent? A sister? A friend? We've all met death in some shape or form.

But here's the thing: **The dead live on**. It's not just a sweet thought to say it: the dead live on in our hearts and minds, in our memories, our habits, our emotions, our stories, our internal monologue. They live on at least as long as we do.

And here's another thing: **The dead live on in God**. If the dead live in *my* heart and mind, how much more will the dead live on in the heart of God? God's memory is better and stronger than ours, apart from in one regard which I will mention in a bit.

Jesus' argument against the Sadducees, who denied life after death, was a simple one: God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the God of the living and not the dead. He lives. They exist **in his name; in his heart**. So they live too.

God's memory is much more potent than ours. The English word *Remember* carries the idea of putting back together again. To **dismember** is to cut up and separate. To **remember** is to put the members back together again. God's memory is even more powerful than what we experience as physical reality. So to say that our late auntie is remembered in God's heart, is to say she is whole and safe and brought back together in God's heart.

So in that sense, to be close to God is to be close to all who have died, and especially to the dead we have loved. There are scriptures forbidding divination to contact the dead, but every minister knows that Christians frequently have imagined conversations with their dead loved ones. In God, this makes a kind of powerful sense.

But **who** continues in God? Our passage from Matthew 5 suggests it might be the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the justice-bringer, the peace-maker, the merciful, the persecuted... who will be rewarded in heaven. Our dramatic reading from Revelation 7 refers to those who have come through the great tribulation, those who have washed their robes clean in the blood of the Lamb... These are the ones who experience that freedom from hunger and thirst, that wiping away of every tear, that protection from hot sun, that shepherding care from the Lamb who was slain.

One argument for the very existence of God is from the moral imperative in the human heart. We see a frightful injustice that goes uncorrected on earth and we sense it **must** be put right, and, if the people concerned have already died, then our instinctive urge for justice points us into God and into eternity.

As I finish my preparation on Wednesday morning, I read of the two children aged five and eight, who died in a boat on the English Channel the day before. The callous attitude of gangs who offer these trips to migrants is something that demands justice. For these two children, and for the two adults who perished, and for any others missing at sea, it's too late.

Or is it? Our theology demands that God receives these victims of injustice with mercy, and that their tears will be wiped away, and that they will fear the terror of the sea no more. It demands that the perpetrators be held to account.

Of course that same theology also demands for justice **here and now** in our existence on this planet. Whether by allowing asylum claims to be made in France; whether by properly funding and facilitating support and policing structures in Calais; or by some other means, all decent people demand a stop to these tragedies. We know it's not an easy problem to solve. If we were in charge, would we really be able to find a solution? Nevertheless, we must forcefully urge for a solution to be found.

Revelation 7 promises comfort for the oppressed in heaven. But what of the bad guys? Can they just get away with it, if they got away with it on earth? Revelation 21, the penultimate chapter of the Bible, says not! It talks of death in a lake of fire for the cowardly, the unbelievers, the vile, the murderers, the immoral, those who practice magic arts, idolaters and liars. This, we are informed, is the second death.

But before we take this over-literally, we should pay attention to some of the difficulties. One difficulty is this: that we (who may have loved less-than-perfect people), how can we be freed from crying, if people we have loved, albeit 'bad' people, are being destroyed in a lake of fire?

And a second difficulty is this: Most of us are neither perfect holy saints nor are we entirely consumed by wickedness. We are just ordinary flawed people trying to do our best in a confusing world. Where does the second death end? In our horrific news story, is it just the people traffickers who are ripe for this fearful punishment? What of those who sold the boat? What of the wives of the traffickers who may have turned a blind eye? What of politicians who craft the system which allows these criminals to flourish? What of voters who elected them?

So, back to Revelation 7: those saved through the great tribulation are those who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb. That's code for: their sins have been forgiven through Christ's sacrifice.

So to avoid the second death is a matter of accepting God's grace in Christ, and

living from that forgiveness. Is it then, too late for people who died having never responded to that grace?

Revelation 21:4 says that there will be *no more mourning or crying or pain* **because the old order of things has passed away**. Pain and sin and suffering and shame and perhaps even death has passed away.

Picture something like a chequerboard and all of the chequer pieces are double-sided, red on one side and green on the other. Red for stopping where I am; green for ready to go... Red for sticking with the old order; green for embracing the new order...

A Christian is someone who has already flipped over to green. They accept grace and are ready to go to be with God. When the angels look at the chequerboard, any green tokens are taken up into glory. But the red ones remain where they are, sticking to the old order. Not because they are good or bad, but because they don't want to go.

But any time they do want, a red piece can flip over and show its green side and accept the new order. Then the angels will gather them too into glory. Maybe it might take a thousand years, but eventually, nearly every piece will flip over. You see, even with respect to heaven, love and grace can only be **freely accepted** by their very nature. If someone doesn't want heaven, they won't be forced to enter! If they were forced, it wouldn't be heaven.

But what of the **characters** of the dead? What of their identity? What of their merits and what of their flaws?

1 Corinthians 13 tells us that love endures forever. That same letter, in chapter 3, tells us that the foundation on which we build our lives must be Christ. We go on to build our lives on that foundation using a variety of materials: gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw. Paul goes on to explain that each person will survive the fire of death if they have built on the foundation of Christ. But as to the other aspects of their character and achievement, it will be tested in flames. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss, but yet will be saved.

Picture a life as a wavy line on a graph... Imagine something akin to a sine wave, that can go above or below the horizontal axis, but make it less regular. Sometimes our lives go above the axis - that's the good bits; sometimes below - that's the bad bits. Maybe everything below that axis is lost when we accept grace; it's not worthy of us. Anything which is above the axis - those things we built on love, maybe those aspects of us survive.

Oh, this is where I tell you of the problem in God's memory. It's such a great memory by and large, so reliable that it remembers who we really are and sees our very best motives and retains all that. But it is able to forget too. It forgets our sins. As far as the East is from the West, so far has he taken our sins from us. Right now, we tend to remember our shameful episodes. God forgets them... And yet he also redeems them...

While sifting through their late great-grandparents' belongings, an American family found an old paper bag which they were about to throw away. As a last-minute thought they checked the contents, and so found seven Ty Cobb baseball cards among old postcards and papers. The cards turned out to be extremely rare collectibles that dated from the early 1900s, meaning that they were worth more than a million dollars.

Similarly, when God sifts through the wreckage of our lives, he can still recognise things that have value hidden within what others might despise. For example, a person may have an episode in their lives where they erred and, in the eyes of the world, fell from grace. But God can even look through what appears to be rubbish and redeem that which is precious, valuable and loving underneath it all. And then God can integrate a whole life together. Perhaps that's what a soul is. It's made up of all the ages through which a person has lived and all the aspects of their actions, and all of the good things redeemed and even all of their potential realised. Perhaps a baby who dies on earth can have his or her adulthood realised in heaven, as that potential is an integral aspect of their soul.

Finally, **where** is heaven?

The ancients could be forgiven for thinking it was up in the sky, but modern

cosmology makes that a ridiculous idea. The final two chapters of the Bible do give something of a hint. Repeating a thought from Isaiah, they talk of a new heaven and a new earth. The Holy City of the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven, and *the dwelling of God is the same as the dwelling of people*.

So maybe heaven is not so very far from earth... but it's a new earth and a new sky... Maybe heaven is **this place** when we finally all respond to the grace of God and the new order comes... Maybe heaven is all around us... Maybe heaven is a completely new order of existence... We can't be sure...

So, what **can** we know?

That God is love, and that the lives of those who have died live on in our hearts and in his.

That this is not just a sweet idea, but something more real than what we call reality here and now.

That God is just, and that the victims of injustice will be comforted and the perpetrators will suffer loss.

That God is gracious, and is able to forget our shame.

That suffering, sickness, pain and death itself pass away in the coming new order.

That God is patient, and wants everyone to enter that new order of love.

And that, although these things might appear hard for us to reconcile, in God, all things are possible.

And so that Christians, having already died, are those moving away from the grave not towards it, tasting the life of heaven, even here on earth.

God's goodness carries us through all the generations of life and beyond. And so we sing, *Lord, for the years*.

Hymn (BPW 535) **Lord, for the Years**

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 for the years, we bring our thanks today.

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.

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.

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

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.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;
And the love of God;
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all, evermore.
Amen

Sung Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you

Wherever he may send you;

May he guide you through the wilderness;

Protect you through the storm;

May he bring you home rejoicing

At the wonders he has shown you;

May he bring you home rejoicing

Once again into our doors.