

Sunday, 16th August.

Welcome & announcements:

O Lord my God, I stand and gaze in wonder

on the vast heavens Thy wisdom hath ordained;
sun, moon and stars continue at Thy pleasure,
from nothing called and by Thy power sustained.

*O mighty God, my heart cries out to Thee:
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!
Thy praise shall sound throughout eternity:
How great Thou art! how great Thou art!*

Sometimes I hear the heavens rent by thunder,
or see dread lightning leap across the sky,
then in the cloud I see the promised rainbow
stilling my fears with mercy from on high.

This heart once heard the voice of angels singing -
this earth that wept the day that Adam fell -
for Jesus came from purest heights of glory,
an infant weak, to break the powers of hell.

Nailed to a tree, the great creator suffered
when that dread weight of foulest sin He bear.
Lo! Satan flees! the Lord of glory triumphs!
Nothing can with this mighty love compare.

*Eluned Harrison, b.1934
based on Carl Gustaf Boberg 1856 - 1940*

Prayer:

Children's talk:

'Jesus is Lord' - the cry that echoes through creation;

resplendent power, eternal Word, our Rock.
The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,
yet bids us come to taste this living Bread.

Jesus is Lord - whose voice sustains the star and planets,
yet in His wisdom laid aside His crown.
Jesus the Man, who washed our feet, who bore our
suffering,
became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

Jesus is Lord - the tomb is gloriously empty!
Not even death could crush this King of love!
The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're
forgiven,
and we can run into the arms of God.

'Jesus is Lord' - a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,
as He returns, and every knee bows low.
Then every eye and every heart will see His glory,
the Judge of all will take His children home.

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music

Prayer:

Reading: Joshua 22:9-34

9 So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

10 And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.

11 Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan—on the children of Israel's side."

12 And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

13 Then the children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead,

14 and with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel.

15 Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying,

16 "Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: 'What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD?'

17 Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we are not cleansed till this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,
18 but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

19 Nevertheless, if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the LORD our God.

20 Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity."

21 Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered and said to the heads of the divisions of Israel:

22 "The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know—if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day.

23 If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the LORD Himself require an account.

24 But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?'

25 For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between

you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.'

26 Therefore we said, 'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, 27 but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD." '

28 Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.'

29 Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."

30 Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.

31 Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."

32 And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them.

33 So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

34 The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

As grace first taught my heart to fear
so grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
it's grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this heart and flesh shall fail
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

When I've been there a thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
I've no less days to sing God's praise
than when I first begun.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Sermon: 'Much ado about something!'

The Church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her
and for her life He died.

Elect from every nation,
yet one through all the earth,
her charter of salvation –
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
and shares one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the dawn of song.

In toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore:
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed;
at last the church victorious
shall be the church at rest!

Yet she on earth has union
with those whose rest is won,
and mystic sweet communion
with God the Three in One.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Close: