

**Immanuel, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

**Call to worship**

You gather us from our separate lives, Great God, to hear your word and respond to your revealing. You have appointed us for the work of your church. We seek your guidance, your wisdom, your way. Help us to perceive and understand your law, and then to follow you faithfully, as your people. Bind us together with you in worship and transform us from distinct persons into the Body of Christ, alive with your Spirit in this place. Amen.

**HYMN R&S200 “The kingdom of God is justice and joy”**

1 The kingdom of God is justice and joy;  
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.  
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;  
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall  
grow.

2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;  
The captives are freed, the sinners find place,  
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to  
share;  
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:  
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!  
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his  
cross:  
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the  
goal;  
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.  
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;  
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

Bryn A Rees

**Prayers of approach and Lord's Prayer**

**HYMN R&S 183 Brightest and best of the Sons of the Morning**

1. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall.  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

3. Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion  
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the sons<sup>3</sup> of the  
morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber

**OFFERING AND DEDICATION**

**The Grace**

### **Bible Readings: Psalm 112:1-9**

Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered for ever. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD. Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honour.

### **Matthew 5 v13-20**

You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter,<sup>[c]</sup> not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks<sup>[d]</sup> one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

### **REFLECTION - Seeing the Light and Following Christ.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

### **HYMN: R&S355 "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult"**

1 Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice sounding,  
saying "Christian, follow me."

2 As, of old, apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,  
Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

Cecil Frances Alexander

### **Blessing**