

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Voluntary: i) Prelude & Fugue in A, BWV 536 (?) J S Bach  
ii) Chorale Prelude on the tune "Worcester" Ivor Atkins

Introit: Oculi omnium Charles Wood

### Call to Worship

““Consider how great is the love which the Father has bestowed on us in calling us his children”  
1 John 3.1

**Hymn:** 160 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven *Praise, My Soul*

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise the everlasting King.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
glorious in his faithfulness.
- 3 Angels help us to adore him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before him  
Dwellers all in time and space  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace

*We bring to God our Prayers of Adoration and Confession  
and the Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father,  
Which art in heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen**

*Young people leave for Crèche and Sunday Club*

*We hear the Word of God*

Old Testament:           **Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**  
                                  **(Read by Catriona Reid)**

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemi'ah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

New Testament:

**Luke 4: 14-21**

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Anthem O Thou, the central orb

Charles Wood

O Thou the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let Thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.  
Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about Thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our natures all shall feel eternal day,  
In fellowship with Thee, transforming clay  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen

H R Bramley

Sermon

## Whose Compassion?

### Intimations

*We bring to God our Prayers  
of Thanksgiving and Intercession*

**Hymn:** 465 Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart

*Slane*

1. Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart,  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
thou my best thought in the day or the night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my Wisdom, be thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my great Father: thine own I would be;  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;  
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
4. Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of Heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my Vision, O ruler of all.

## **Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Voluntary: Partita on "Slane"

Adrian Self