



Sunday 7th February

Leader Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
All and also with you

Welcome

Hymn Light of the world (Here I am to worship)

Light of the world,
You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

*So here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God:
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, O so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above,
humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.

*So here I am to worship . . .
So here I am to worship . . .*

And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.

So here I am to worship . . .

Opening activity *Where's Jesus?*

Confession

Leader God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

Leader For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

Leader For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

Leader For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

Leader For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:

All: save us and help us.

Absolution *(we are reminded that God forgives all who repent)*

This or another absolution may be said

Leader May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Collect *(Prayer for the day)*

Leader Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all
things, now and forever.

All Amen

Connect Group *Connect 66, Thursday Evening group*

Song **We want to see Jesus lifted high**

We want to see Jesus lifted high,
a banner that flies across this land,
that all men might see the truth and
know

He is the way to Heaven.

We want to see Jesus lifted high . . .

*We want to see, we want to see,
we want to see Jesus lifted high,
we want to see, we want to see,
we want to see Jesus lifted high.*

Step by step we're moving forward,
little by little taking ground,
every prayer a powerful weapon,
strongholds come tumbling down
and down and down and down.

We want to see Jesus lifted high . . .

*We're gonna see, we're gonna see,
we're gonna see Jesus lifted high,
we're gonna see, we're gonna see
we're gonna see Jesus lifted high.*

Words and music by Doug Horley
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Bible readings

John 1:1-14 – Pauline Wilde, St Peter's

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:15-20 – Johnson family

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in

him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Sermon – Mick Moore – **Because you're worth it.**

The first chapter of John's Gospel is his account of the birth of Jesus. We notice that it is very different from Matthew's and Luke's. John doesn't take us back 2000 years to Bethlehem NO he takes us back billions of years to the creation of the universe. He writes in the beginning immediately we are reminded of the first words of the Bible "in the beginning God" we have an account of creation. But John says "in the beginning was the word" he goes on "and the Word was with God and the Word was God". In v14 it says "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". So John identifies the baby in the manger, it is God the creator of the universe, v3 "All things were made through Him and without Him was not any thing made that was made". The Colossians reading says "For by Him all things were created in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or rulers or authorities". The Word/Jesus/the baby in the manger was the agent of all creation and it was including human beings created good. The planet earth was the perfect planet, the whole universe in fact and life was good. The crown of creation was us, humankind. Genesis 1:27 – 'So God created humankind in His image'. That included free-will, which could be used for the good of others or selfishly for self. Unfortunately, it was used selfishly. And the whole earth became no longer good, it was contaminated. The Bible calls the contamination 'sin'. And the sad thing about sin is that it causes separation, Isaiah 59:2 – 'but your impurities (sins) have made a separation between you and your God'. A barrier has been placed between the creator and the created. It wasn't meant to be like this. God and humans were meant to be one, in fellowship with each other, illustrated by the picture we are given in Genesis 3:8 of God waiting in the garden in the cool of the day to be with the humans. But sin had created a barrier. Could the barrier be removed, and fellowship restored? Could people live perfect lives and so have fellowship with God? No, we are not perfect no matter how hard we try – we know it – The sin problem had to be dealt with in another way. So, Jesus – the Word – creator of the universe, the baby in the manger came. As Graham

Kendrick in his hymn says, “The one who strode among the stars and called each one by name lies helpless in a mother’s arms and must learn to walk again”. He came as a baby, He grew up; lived a sinless perfect life, became a carpenter, and when He was about 30 left the security of home and became a travelling teacher, preacher, and leader. Because He was outspoken, He made enemies, particularly the religious leaders who plotted to have Him killed. Although He was innocent of any crime, He was convicted, condemned, and executed by crucifixion. A painful and cruel way to die. So by His death, although we may not understand it, the sin barrier can be removed by each individual and for that person fellowship with God restored. But why did the creator of the universe, the cosmic Christ, if you like, step down and become a tiny vulnerable human baby, and then an itinerant, preacher, teacher, and finally die like a criminal on a cross. “though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped at but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant . . . and being found in Human form humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” Why is the restoration of fellowship so important? Why did the cosmic Christ step down become the human Jesus and die on a cross? Why? Why? Because in God’s eyes YOU ARE WORTH IT. So He says come and follow me.

I want to finish with a story, it’s not a true story but deals with a truth.

There was once a boy whose hobby was model making. Among the models he made was a sailing boat. It was a very good model and when he had finished it he was very proud of it. It looked magnificent. But he wondered if it would float. So he took it to the local park which had a boating pool; where he launched his boat. It floated beautifully. Then he wondered – would it sail on the sea. There was only one way to find out. He lived in a seaside town, so he waited until the sea was calm, then he launched his boat. It sailed beautifully, which pleased him no end. So he watched it bobbing up and down, riding the small waves with ease. He watched it proudly. Then he noticed it was out of his reach. The tide had turned and the boat was carried out to sea. Soon he lost sight of it altogether. Did this mean that the boat was lost to him. The tide would turn, perhaps the boat would be washed up. So he checked the tides and made sure he was on the beach at each high tide. He did this for weeks, but no boat, so he gave up. Then one day as he was passing a shop which sold antiques and collectables, he saw his boat in the window, he looked twice, yes it was his boat alright. So he went in and told his story to the

shopkeeper. Who was sympathetic but insisted that if he wanted the boat he would have to pay for it. He rushed home to get the money and paid for the boat and said – “Now you are doubly mine. I made you, and now I’ve bought you”. That’s just what Jesus says to us – “I made you, I have bought you (redeemed you) you are doubly mine.

We may be all sorts but Jesus did it ALL FOR YOU! So what are you going to do?

Hymn 755 *When I survey the wondrous cross*

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Creed *(We stand to declare our faith)*

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
 source of all being and life,
 the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
 who took our human nature,
 died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Leader Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

Leader This is the faith of the Church

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers ~ *Brenda Cox, St Peter's*

Lord, we come before you with our hearts full of praise and adoration, as we come with our prayers and petitions.

We thank you that you have cared for and protected us as a Parish from the virus but continue to ask for your blessings upon us as there is now the new strain on our doorsteps. We pray your protection for that area in Woking.

It has been an extremely long time being cut off from others for those in self isolation or those keeping the lockdown rules for a third time. We pray today for the young families, parents trying to juggle with home schooling whilst working from home, and for all that entails. We pray for those who have lost their jobs and who are worried about finances and making ends meet. We pray for the lonely whatever age they are, this seems to have further exacerbated the loneliness for us all, it is a long time to be without the company of others, unable to go out for lunch, a coffee, take part in normal activities. Lord give them the courage to speak out to those around who care for them and want to help.

Gracious Lord

Hear our prayers.

We thank you our heavenly Father for the work of the scientists that have produced the vaccines which fight the virus, and for the way in which they are being rolled out in this country. We pray that countries like ours who have been able to purchase these vaccines will be filled with love and compassion for the poorer parts of the world and share, endeavouring, that all the world may have access.

Gracious Lord

Hear our Prayers

We know Lord that our world is both wonderful and flawed at every point. We see the symptoms of a disordered world in war, politics and want, all around us and on our TV's. Bless we pray those parts which are especially damaged and are in need of healing right now. Give them leaders of

genuine calibre and the support of the international community. Keep us from the sin of thinking that their problems are nothing to do with us, for we are all children of the one heavenly Father. He loved us all and sent his son Jesus Christ to save us all, not just a privileged few.

Gracious Lord

Hear our prayers.

We pray Lord, for those in any kind of need for whom this talk of 'life in all its fullness' would ring very hollow. We especially pray for Eileen and Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, Enid Hardman, John Hunter, Lynda Kirk, Catherine McCormack, Olive Park, Malcolm Pritchard, Joy Storkey and Barbara Thirst. We pray too for all who are mourning the loss of Alison Brazil, Rik Crook, Peter and Pat Mason and for David Boyt (Rosemary Titcombe's brother). Be close today to the despairing and the desperate. Bless with hope the unemployed, homeless, and those who may feel deserted. Give your deep healing to the sick, the disturbed, the damaged and the lost.

Gracious Lord

Hear our Prayers

Finally we give you thanks for those people who sustain us by their love and forgiveness. Thank you for the network of people with whom our lives are inextricably linked and who make up the fabric of our family and church life. Make us alert to each other's needs and quick to serve one another. May our love and gentleness with each other reflect your love and gentleness with us.

Gracious Lord

Hear our Prayers.

The Lord's prayer

Leader As our Saviour has taught us so we pray.

**All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.**

Notices – see N&N

Hymn **You're the word of God the Father**

You're the Word of God the Father,
from before the world began.
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet,
has been fashioned by Your hand.
All creation holds together
by the power of Your voice.
Let the skies declare Your glory;
let the land and seas rejoice!

Chorus:

*You're the Author of creation; You're the Lord of ev'ry man;
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet You left the gaze of angels,
came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven
for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer You fed the hungry;
with a word You stilled the sea;
Yet how silently You suffered
that the guilty may go free!

Chorus:

With a shout You rose victorious,
wresting vict'ry from the grave,
And ascended into heaven,
leading captives in Your way.
Now You stand before the Father,
interceding for Your own;
From each tribe and tongue and nation,
you are leading sinners home!

Chorus:

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Blessing

Leader The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Grace

**All 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.**

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

