



## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July

### Welcome

Leader Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Leader This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**All Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Hymn      **237 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! – merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! – though the darkness hide Thee,  
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!  
all Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea:  
Holy, holy, holy! – merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening activity ~ “Not fit to wear the shirt”

## Confession

Leader Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
We long for the fire of God's cleansing  
to touch our unclean lips,  
for our guilt to be removed and our sin wiped out.  
So we meet Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
with repentance in our hearts.

**All O King enthroned on high,  
filling the earth with your glory:  
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.  
In our sinfulness we cry to you  
to take our guilt away,  
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Absolution (*we are reminded that God forgives all who repent*)  
*This or another absolution may be said*

Leader May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## Collect (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity)

Leader Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen**

## Hymn      **Who breaks the power (This is amazing grace)**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace,  
this is unfailing love,  
that You would take my place,  
that You would bear my cross.  
You would lay down Your life,  
that I would be set free:  
Jesus, I sing for all that You've done for me,  
all that You've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice,  
shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace . . .*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
and worthy is the King who conquered the grave.  
(x4)

. . . worthy, worthy, worthy.

*This is amazing grace . . .*

Josh Farro / Phil Wickham / Jeremy Riddle

## Bible readings

*Ezekiel 36:22-28 ~ Geoff Pugh, St Peter's*

<sup>22</sup>"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. <sup>23</sup>I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the

LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

<sup>24</sup>" 'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. <sup>25</sup>I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. <sup>28</sup>You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

*Luke 11:1-4 ~ Sue Harvey, St Peter's*

**11**One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

<sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say:

" 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation. ' "

Sermon – Samuel Waako

**‘For the sake of My Holy Name’**

**Ezekiel 36.22-28 & Luke 11.1-4**

Continuing with our sermon series on the ‘New normal’ this month, using the biblical story of God returning the Israelites from exile in Babylon (and other nations) to their land, this week I want to share on not only what actions God promised to do to restore Israel to its land, but the motivation behind why He was going to act.

Can I encourage you to open your bible to Ezekiel 36.22-32, and as you, the question I want us to have at the back of our minds is; Why does God do what He does? What’s the motivation for His plans, his purposes, actions?

For many of us, the first thing that will come to mind will be Love. That God does what he does primarily out of love. And although this is partly true, emphasized by texts like the famous John 3.16, I believe it’s not the primary motivation for God’s actions.

Our reading in Ezekiel and throughout scripture, we see a different reason why God does what He did for Israel and what He continues to do for us. And that is; For the sake of His Holy Name.

I grew up in a country and a culture where a name meant almost everything. A name has a meaning and a story behind it, names tell people which tribe you belong to, which languages you speak, which part of the country you are from, which lineage you are come from. And in my community growing up, it told people which family you belong to. Which is why, discipline was almost held above anything else, a lot of times even above religion and education. Because as a child I knew right from the beginning, if I misbehaved, especially away from home, I did not only bring shame to myself, I brought shame to my family and my families name (*not that it stopped me from mis behaving*). One of the questions asked when caught misbehaving was, “whose child is this?” And your family would most certainly be identified from the name. If a name can be this important to us as human beings, how important then can it be to God? In the first talk in this series, we found out that the Israelites disobeyed God and brought dishonour to His name, hence the reason for exile. But even in exile, they did not necessarily glorify God, we are told that “they continued to profane His name, not just His name, but His ‘Holy name.’” And as a result, the pagan nations where the Israelites had been exiled begun to view the God of the Israelites as being no different from any other gods. Worse still, to these pagan nations, it appeared that their gods were now even more powerful than the Lord, since in their eyes, the Lord was not able to protect His people from the enemy, and protect the land He had given them.

In Ezekiel 36.22-23, we find God promising to correct this thinking, promising to act, not because He loves His people (which he certainly does), but because He wants to vindicate the holiness of His great name. God wanted to demonstrate that He was and is the One True and Living God. V38 says, “...Then they will know that I am the Lord.”

God wasn't promising to restore Israel to its former glory and even greater because of their righteousness, or because of anything good they had done, God doesn't do all He does for us because of our righteousness, or because of how good we are, God in His grace gives us what we do not deserve, for His name's sake.

God wants His name to be great, so that the nations may regard Him not as an ineffective tribal god, but as the Lord of the whole earth. And so God was going to vindicate His name not through Israels suffering, but

through her restoration. Israel was going to be the channel through which this vindication is going to be achieved.

In a series of prophetic statements, Ezekiel describes what God will do; In verses 24 through to 30 of Ezekiel 36, God spells out His actions to vindicate His Holiness. Note God says over and over 'I will'

*“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. (NIV)*

In all of this, the covenant relationship between Israel and God will be renewed, and once again, God says, “you will be my people and I will be your God.”

These actions of God were not exactly intended to benefit His people, but to set forth His glory in the world. In Ezekiel and all over scripture we see that God acts, for the sake of His Holy name, especially among the nations.

Preparing this talk, I was reminded that all of life, all that God has given me, my family, my calling, my friends, my everything, is not for my benefit (as much as I might enjoy it), but ultimately it's for His glory, for the lifting up of his name.

When we fully understand this, It even changes the way we pray. In our second reading in Luke 11.1-4, when the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He said to them, “when you pray, begin with: Father, hallowed be your name.....”

And when you understand the ultimate purpose of God, you also begin to pray exactly how Jesus taught us how to pray. This is what should drive all our praying; God, for the sake of your name, I pray for healing for so and so.. God, for the sake of your name, we ask that you will bless our mission partners... This is what drives our motivations, because it's what drives the motivation of God.

## **Conclusion**

As the Israelites returned from exile into the promised land, they had a responsibility to represent God properly. As we move into the new normal, as Christ followers, we have a responsibility to represent God properly, in our actions and in our words, in our homes, schools, social

circles, in our community, in Church! Let us seek to be renewed by the power of the Holy spirit to bring glory to His name in this new season we find ourself in.

There is a constant refrain in Ezekiel that says, 'God is on the move.' And indeed in this new season, He is on the move and wanting to make his name known and glorified in all the nations, tribes, people, gathered communities, and He wants to use us for His glory, for His name's sake. The question I leave us with then is, how do we represent God to the world?

Song      **Blessed be your name**

Blessèd be your name  
in the land that is plentiful,  
where the streams of abundance  
flow,  
blessèd be your name.  
And blessèd be your name  
when I'm found in the desert place,  
though I walk through the  
wilderness,  
blessèd be your name.  
Every blessing you pour out  
I'll turn back to praise,  
and when the darkness closes in,  
Lord, still I will say:

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your name.*

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your glorious name.*

Blessèd be your name  
when the sun's shining down on  
me,  
when the world's all as it should be,  
blessèd be your name.  
And blessèd be your name  
on the road marked with suffering,  
though there's pain in the offering,  
blessèd be your name.

You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
'Lord, blessèd be your name,'  
You give and take away.  
You give and take away.  
My heart will choose to say,  
'Lord, blessèd be your name.'

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your name.*

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,  
blessèd be your glorious name.*

## Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers ~ Brenda Cox, St Peter's

Faithful Father, we begin today by giving you thanks. Your love endures for ever, it never fails though there are many ways in which we have failed, we have not and never will exceed the supply of your love mercy and grace. We thank you for revealing yourself through your word. We pray today we would hear your voice, and that your Holy Spirit would be at work, opening our ear and our hearts to receive that which we have heard this morning. May we be transformed into your likeness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**



Father, we seek your wisdom daily. Be with the people making the decisions that affect the lives and future of our families, communities, countries and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, calmly – with each other and with the public – and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of all those setting the policies for our protection.

As we are coming out of the pandemic lockdowns let us continue to strive for and adhere to those things that we have learnt during these times, that we will and can “love our neighbour as ourselves”. **Amen**

Father in heaven, we rejoice in what you have done in the life of Dean being Ordained today at Guildford Cathedral. You called him and he



obeyed, you taught him and he listened and obeyed. Today he stands on the threshold of a lifetime of ministry. We thank you for those who have supported, encouraged, guided and mentored Dean throughout this period. We thank and pray for his family, as they move along this unknown path with him. We pray that you Lord, will use Dean with increasing effectiveness for your greater glory. In Jesus Name, **Amen**

We bring before you Lord our mission partners scattered around the world. We pray that their plans are always before them, as experience will show them that some things work well in one place and not another, So we ask that you will guide their plans and bless the work of their hands In Jesus name we pray, **Amen**

We pray this morning for those of your church family who need the comfort if our prayers bringing before you, Nary Angus, Eileen & Peter Bliss, Patrick Chapman, Brenda Collard, Gloria Johnson(Eliot's mother), Barbara Jones, Lynda Kirk, Barbara Lloyd, Trevor Lloyd, Doreen KcKinnon, Denise Randall, Jacquie Still and Joy Storkey. Look on them with your eyes of mercy. May your healing hand rest on them, and may your life-giving powers flow into every part of their bodies and into the depths of their souls, restoring them to wholeness and strength. In Jesus Name we pray, **Amen**

A prayer fir ourselves fir this coming week.  
May our lives be sustained by the love of our Heavenly Father  
May we feel the presence of our Saviour walking beside us, and know the power of the Holy Spirit in our actions and our words and in all that we do. In Jesus Name, **Amen**

**We conclude our prayers by saying together the Lord's Prayer**

**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 Notes & News)*

## Hymn      **To God be the glory**

To God be the glory, great things he  
has done!

So loved he the world that he gave  
us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement  
for sin,  
and opened the life gate that we  
may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father thro' Jesus  
the Son,  
and give him the glory, great  
things he has done!*

To ev'ry believer the promise of  
God;  
the vilest offender who truly  
believes,  
that moment from Jesus  
forgiveness receives.

*Praise the Lord . . .*

Great things he has taught us, great  
things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through  
Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater  
will be  
our wonder, our transport, when  
Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord . . .*

O perfect redemption, the purchase  
of blood!

## The blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use his gifts to his glory  
and the welfare of all peoples;  
and the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
remain with you always. **Amen**

## The dismissal

We go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory.

**All                  Amen.**

Worshipping ▶ Loving ▶ Sharing ▶ Growing

