

Alrewas Church Pre-Recorded Service for Sunday 2nd May (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

Participants: Ashley, John, Helen, Chris G.

Chris – Organ prelude

Ashley – Welcome and introduction

John Hymn 1: The God of love my Shepherd is.

The God of love my Shepherd is And He that doth me feed
While He is mine and I am His What can I want or need
He leads me to the tender grass Where I both feed and rest
Then to the streams that gently pass In both I have the best

And if I stray He doth convert And bring my mind in frame
And all this not for my dessert But for His holy name
Yea in death's shady black abode Well may I walk not fear
For Thou art with me and Thy rod To guide Thy staff to bear

Nay Thou dost make me sit and dine Even in my enemies' sight
My head with oil my cup with wine Runs over day and night
Surely Thy sweet and wondrous love Shall measure all my days
And as it never shall remove So neither shall my praise

Ashley – Opening Prayer and Collect of the Day

Helen - First Reading: - Acts 8: 26-end.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Phillip, Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. (This is a wilderness road.) So, he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home, seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the spirit said to Philip, Go over to this chariot and join in. So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, Do you understand what you are reading? He replied, How can I, unless someone guides me? And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
And like a lamb silent before it's shearer,

So he does not open his mouth
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.

The eunuch asked Philip, About whom, may I ask you, does the Prophet say this, about himself or about someone else? Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, Look here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised? He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

John Hymn 2: O for a closer walk with God.

O for a closer walk with God, the calm of sins forgiven,
A light to shine upon the road that leads at last to heaven.
O gentle Messenger return, return, O holy Dove;
I hate the sins that made you mourn and grieved your heart of love.

Restore the happiness I knew when first I saw the Lord;
Refresh me with the radiant view of Jesus and his word!
From every idol I have known now set my spirit free;
O make me worship you alone, and reign supreme in me.

So shall my walk be close with God, my wanderings be forgiven;
So shall his light mark out the road that leads at last to heaven.

Helen- Gospel Reading: - John 15: 1-8

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine - grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in the vine. I am the vine you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown

into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Message – Ashley

John Hymn 3: Listen to my prayer Lord.

Listen to my prayer, Lord, hear my humble cry:
when my heart is fainting, to your throne I fly.
In earth's farthest corner you will hear my voice:
set me on your rock, Lord, then I shall rejoice.

You have been my shelter when the foe was near,
as a tower of refuge shielding me from fear.
I will rest for ever in your care and love,
guarded and protected as by wings above.

All that I have promised, help me to fulfil;
and in all who love you work your perfect will.
May your truth and mercy keep me all my days;
let my words and actions be my songs of praise!

John Intercessions: (of your choice) followed by traditional version of the Lord's Prayer.

John Fund Raising Announcement

John Hymn 4: O Jesus I have promised .

O Jesus I have promised To serve Thee to the end
Be Thou forever near me My Master and my friend
I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side
Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my Guide

O let me feel Thee near me The world is ever near
I see the sights that dazzle The tempting sounds I hear
My foes are ever near me Around me and within
But Jesus draw Thou nearer And shield my soul from sin

O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion The murmurs of self-will
O speak to reassure me To hasten or control
O speak and make me listen Thou guardian of my soul

O Jesus Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be
And Jesus I have promised To serve Thee to the end
O give me grace to follow My Master and my friend

O let me see Thy footmarks And in them plant mine own
My hope to follow duly Is in Thy strength alone
O guide me call me draw me Uphold me to the end
And then in heaven receive me My Saviour and my friend

Ashley Closing Prayer and Blessing