

## Order of service – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Preacher : Jake Eggertsen

Leader : Jeannette Law

### **1. Welcome**

- morning everyone, it's so great that you could join us either in person or online this morning. my name is Jeannette and I am the children and families worker for St. Paul's.

- if you are joining in at home don't forget that you can log in to the previous zoom details to have a chat with others after the service.

- as we start, let's remind ourselves of why it is so important that we gather together, in whatever way we can! there are actions to join in with if you wish to.

*We have come together in the name of Christ*

*To offer our praise and thanksgiving*

*To hear and receive God's holy word*

*To pray for the needs of the world*

*And to seek the forgiveness of our sins*

*That by the power of the Holy Spirit*

*We may give ourselves to the service of God*

### **2. Confession and Assurance**

- last Sunday we heard how the Lord told Joseph to take Jesus to Egypt because King Herod was trying to kill him. and we saw how this fulfils what God said through the prophet Hosea. let's have a look at part of this prophecy again now. it's on the screen or your notes at home.

*'When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.'* Hosea 11 v 1 - 2

- here the Lord is saying that even though he rescued his beloved people out of slavery in Egypt, they turned away from him to idols, to made up, pretend gods.

- and, if we're honest with ourselves, we have done this too haven't we? maybe even this past week we have ignored God; not giving him a moment's thought in the midst of eating our Christmas meals and opening presents.

- so, let's confess this to the Lord now as we pray the prayer of confession

I'll give you a chance to read it through first, and maybe parents to make sure their children knows what the words say, before we say it together.

*Most merciful Father, our Creator and Judge, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed.*

*We have not loved you with all our heart; and we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.*

*We earnestly repent, and are truly sorry for all our sins.*

*For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us, and strengthen us to serve and obey you in lives wholly renewed by your Spirit;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- as we have just prayed; God wonderfully forgives us because of Jesus. and he does this because of his great love for us.

- look at how the Lord continues in Hosea *'My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again.'* Hosea 11 v 8b/9a

- we don't deserve his love and forgiveness and yet the Lord God pours it out onto us. as the song we are about to listen to, or sing at home, says : how wonderful, how marvellous, is my Saviour's love for me.

- do stand if you wish and hum along, play egg shakers and I'll do some actions to the chorus – if you are at home you can sing with gusto!

### 3. Song – I stand amazed

I Stand Amazed at the Presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how He could love me,  
A sinner, condemned, unclean.  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*And my song shall ever be:*  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden  
He prayed, 'Not My will, but Thine':  
He had no tears for His own griefs,  
But sweat drops of blood for mine.  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*And my song shall ever be:*  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

In pity angels beheld Him,  
And came from the world of light  
To comfort Him in the sorrows  
He bore for my soul that night.

*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*And my song shall ever be:*  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them His very own;  
He bore the burden of Calvary,  
And suffered and died alone.  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*And my song shall ever be:*  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of His love for me.  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*And my song shall ever be:*  
*How marvellous! How wonderful!*  
*Is my Saviour's love for me!*

Charles Gabriel.

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### 4. Intro to theme

- hello there everyone and welcome to our new gameshow called 'How does it end?'
- the rules are very simple; all you need to do is work out – 'how does it end?'
- so, firstly. let's have a think about fairy tales. there's a princess who needs rescuing, who will save her? then a handsome prince rides in on his mighty stallion. hurrah, the prince has rescued her. but... 'how does it end?' I'll give you a clue – 'and they all lived...' *happily ever after*
- well done, let's try another. 2 children are play fighting in the lounge, they're having fun but it starts to get a bit more rough ... 'how does it end?' here's your clue – their mum says 'stop that now or it will all end...' *in tears*
- and now, it's time for a song, but 'how does it end? those of you who are here, be careful, as you will have to say, not sing, the answer!!! 'we wish you a merry Christmas... and a ... *Happy New Year*
- well done!
- now, when we sang 'and a Happy New Year' in 2019, none of us knew how the New Year would turn out did we?! no one predicted that the year would see a pandemic taking over the whole world. no one foresaw that we would have to queue outside shops, wear masks, and do church online.
- and, as we start 2021, we don't know how it will end do we? we are going into the unknown with still so much uncertainty about.
- BUT, as we will see from our Bible reading today, NOTHING is unknown to the Lord God. everything is under his control and so we can trust in him. so listen carefully while Steph reads the Bible passage for us and Jake helps us to understand the glorious truths from it.

### 5. Matthew 2 v 19 – 23 (Steph King)

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

## 6. Sermon (Jake)

### 7. Prayers (Annabelle Coombs) *finishing with the Lord's Prayer*

## 8. Final thought

- we have been reminded today that although we go into this new year not knowing what will happen, there is no need for us to be afraid or anxious. we can rest safe in the knowledge that the Lord is sovereign, he is in control. even the really tough and hard things that will happen are in his hands and he will guide us through, being with us every step of the way. loving us and giving us the strength we need through his Holy Spirit at work in us.

- as the song we are about to listen to, or sing at home says: Christ will hold me fast.

## 9. Song – He will hold me fast

### When I Fear My Faith Will Fail

Christ will hold me fast

When the tempter would prevail

He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold

Through life's fearful path

For my love is often cold

He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast*

*He will hold me fast*

*For my Saviour loves me so*

*He will hold me fast*

Those He saves are His delight

Christ will hold me fast

Precious in His holy sight

He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost

His promises shall last

Bought by Him at such a cost

He will hold me fast

*He will hold me fast*

*He will hold me fast*

*For my Saviour loves me so*

*He will hold me fast*

For my life He bled and died

Christ will hold me fast

Justice has been satisfied

He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life

He will hold me fast

Till our faith is turned to sight

When he comes at last

*He will hold me fast*

*He will hold me fast*

*For my Saviour loves me so*

*He will hold me fast*

Keith and Kristyn Getty (written by Matthew Merker)

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## 10. Farewell and reminder of zoom

- it's been wonderful to spend this time with you all this morning. for those who have joined in at home – don't forget to sign on with the previous Sunday morning zoom details to be able to have a catch up with others in break out rooms.

- let me pray as we finish:

Dear Father, Thank you so much that we can totally rely on you to see us through whatever this new year holds for us. Thank you that we can be confident that everything is under your control and in your plan to make us more like Jesus and to bring us to yourself. Please help us to share the certain hope that we have with those around us. Amen