

Sunday 25th October 2020

Call to worship

Eternal God you are the Alpha and Omega. in our lives You love us even with our imperfections. We come in thanks for that love. And to offer you our worship, give you Honour and praise today and always, we pray you will accept our love in the honour and praise we bring to you today. Amen

Hymn MP 395 Judge Eternal,

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

O God of truth, prepare our minds to hear and heed your holy word; Fill every heart that longs for you teach us to love eternal truth and seek its freedom everywhere. You reach out to us in love, to embrace us, to enfold us, to make us welcome, and we rejoice and give You thanks for Your mercy and Your grace. God of mercy, whose heart is full of forgiveness, when we have thought of ourselves more highly than we ought and forgotten to put our relationship with You first; Forgive us, we pray. When we have loved only those who love us and ignored or turned aside from those who need a smile and a hand of friendship; Forgive us, we pray. When we have acted as if all tomorrow was ours yet neglected to do good today. Forgive us, we pray. May Christ Jesus, free us from our faults and all that would hold us back from being the children that the eternal and loving God desires; amen Our Father

Old Testament Reading Psalm 90 1-6 & 13 - 17

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. ²Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.³You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals." ⁴A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. ⁵Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the morning: ⁶In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. Relent, LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us ,for as many years as we have seen trouble.¹⁶May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children. ¹⁷May the favour^[a] of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands. Amen.
Hymn MP 486 Now thank we all our God

Thessalonians Ch. 2 1-8 **Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica**

¹You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. ²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Sermon

Last week we heard about the first letter Paul sent to the people of Thessalonica which he wrote about 52 AD. Paul had travelled from Philippi this is where Silas and himself had landed in the jail. Paul stayed for 3 weeks in Thessalonica but he certainly left an enduring effect on the people of Thessalonica. Paul was delighted to find from the report back from Timothy that the word of God was certainly staying within them. It is quite appealing that it only took Paul three weeks as their teacher to instil in their hearts the word of God. just to what extent had Paul been able to instruct them in such a

short time. verse eight. Is where you will get the answer. "We were ready to share with you, not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves when we look into this we will see that it is not just how we live the doctrines of our faith but more of how we live them in our daily lives. Which in its own way will let others see that we are living the life we preach about. The Third Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." Is one commandment that gets broken probably hundreds of times in a day. Just one example how many have you heard saying for "God's Sake" in your walk around Tesco's or in conversation with work colleagues. It is so easy in some ways but when you are baptised into the church, then the word of God is sacred Therefore, as we read our bibles it is not just words we see we must interpret a deeper meaning to be able to interact truthfully with the people we come into contact with. The Good News is what we want people to see and feel the love that Christ has grown in us then we pray that they will also feel and see the love of God shining out from us.

The story is told of a zoo that was noted for their great collection of different animals. One day the gorilla died, and to keep up the appearance of a full range of animals, the zookeeper hired a man to wear a gorilla suit and fill in for the dead animal. It was his first day on the job, and the man didn't know how to act like a gorilla very well. As he tried to move convincingly, he got too close to the wall of the enclosure and tripped and fell into the lion exhibit. He began to scream, convinced his life was over...until the lion spoke to him: "Be quiet, or you're going to get us both fired!" Just an illustration that shows we must be truthful in our beliefs or we will be tripped up somewhere along the line.

I don't know how you all feel when we have a baptism in the church and the parents take the vow to bring the child up in the faith and nurture of the fellowship of Christ. And of course the answer will be we will. Then we are asked, do we promise to help bring the child up in the nurture and in fellowship of our church. And we say we do. I know that I feel as if I am retaking the vows that I made for my children and I know that I was certainly nurtured through the church in Gladsmuir. I cannot remember all the bible stories told to us at that time but I do remember the people who did what they promised to do and look after the children who came through the church. You will all probably know this story of when I first started the readership course we had to draw a tree and on that tree we put the names of the people who had influenced your life through the years they were the branches of my tree. Go home and do this exercise it will make you think; believe me it is amazing just how big the tree becomes. But it will also give you an insight into the sermon of life. you will see that baptism promise right in front of you. the stories from the Sunday school, bible class etc. are important but the people you have learned from will be as God they will forgive you and love you and will show you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in action this will be a confirmation of faith for all to see in our love of our neighbours and in our communities around us.

The story is told about the father of a vacationing family who came across a large sign that read, "Road Closed. Do Not Enter." The man proceeded around the sign because he was confident it would save them time. His wife was resistant to the adventure, but there was no turning back for this persistent road warrior. After a few miles of successful navigation, he began to boast about his gift of discernment. His proud smile was quickly replaced with humble sweat when the road led to a washed-out bridge. He turned the car around and retraced his tracks to the main road. When they arrived at the original warning sign he was greeted by large letters on the back of the sign "Welcome back, stupid!"

Sometimes we can have utmost confidence in ourselves to figure out issues or fix problems, but we let ourselves down. Confidence is only as good as the object it's placed in. When going through life, the wise person places their confidence in an unchanging, all-powerful God Paul said, "We were well pleased to impart to you, not the Good News of God only, but also our own souls, because you had become very dear to us Let us be seen to be the true and living word of God and be like Thessalonians and learn from Paul to work in accordance with the Holy Spirit within us and be strong to impart that knowledge we have learned.

Let's Pray. Loving Lord Let us be followers of you help us to pass the word that we have been taught to the children. Help us to encourage them as Paul did to the people of Thessalonica he taught them

in three weeks. Father we have all our lives to be teachers to all we come into contact with. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

Intercession

Everlasting God, you promised that your presence would always go with your chosen people, so we pray that we may always find you accompanying us on our life journey and that ultimately we would find your deep peace in our lives. Loving God we hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dearly as our own needs. Help us to love you with all our hearts and with all our souls and with all our minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With these commandments before us we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church here in Haddington and throughout the world. Creator God, we pray for the people of the world that they may be able to worship and live in peace. We pray that those who use violence and terror to bring about their desires and those who then so readily seek revenge following acts of terrorism may instead pursue all that makes for peace.

Father God, we thank you for our families and friends. We thank you for modern technology which enables us to hear and see them so easily and to keep in touch even though separated by great distances.

Loving God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has loosened our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift before you for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

Merciful God, Look with compassion on those bereaved and grieving at the loss of a loved one; give to their troubled hearts the light of hope and strengthen in all of us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Faithful God, at the start of this new week and recognising your trust in us to live and preach the Gospel make us always more ready to please you rather than to seek the praise of the secular world

Merciful Father: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Hymn CH4 622 We sing a Love that sets all people free.

Benediction

Go now, tell out the message of the gospel and given by God, May Christ Jesus lead you to love with all your heart, Let the Holy Spirit bless the all the works we do in Christs name ...We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **Amen.**