

**Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church, Service Recording
5th July 2020. (Brian Murray Locum Minister)** Please excuse the grammar,
punctuation and spelling, these transcripts are usually never seen by the congregation!

Opening Voluntary : A Clare Benediction by John Rutter

Hello and welcome to this recording for the 5th July 2020, The fifth Sunday after Pentecost. So half a year further on and a very warm welcome dear listeners, whether you are visiting or are a regular listener on the web site, phone-in, or recorded memory sticks I do hope that this wee recording cheers you up a bit in this time of easing, but not quite yet opening of our churches.

Let me announce once more the up and coming new broadcast for tonight the 5th July at 7pm. By Request is the brainchild of Stuart McMahon who will host the tune in. Its a great opportunity to send messages to loved ones missed ones or just a hello to remind folks we are all still here. Remember the way to get your requests for hymns and church music to Stuart is by way of the e mail requests @kirkgate.org.uk or phone or letter to Stuart or myself at any time for the next broadcast. Listen I have had a sneak preview curtesy of Stuart and I can tell you its worth tuning in, its a blessing to hear the favourite hymns and tunes and Stuart telling us a bit about them. I'll say no more just go and tune in. To give Stuart encouragement let him know what you think and send in your messages of encouragement for the church and those wider in the field.

Right so let us begin our worship today as always with a short few seconds of silence just to calm our hearts and prepare for worship in the Spirit where ever we are at the moment. My wife Deirdre says the few seconds were awfully short so I'll let you have at least 5 seconds this time so close your eyes and take a deep breath.

Our call to worship is taken from

Psalm 145, let us hear the word of the Lord

8 The Lord is loving and merciful,

slow to become angry and full of constant love.

9 He is good to everyone

and has compassion on all he made.

10 All your creatures, Lord, will praise you,

and all your people will give you thanks.

11 They will speak of the glory of your royal power

and tell of your might,

12 so that everyone will know your mighty deeds

and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

13 Your rule is eternal,

and you are king forever.
The Lord is faithful to his promises;
he is merciful in all his acts.
14 He helps those who are in trouble;
he lifts those who have fallen.
Amen

Our opening praise today is taken from CH4 124

CH4 124 Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of Creation.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
The King of creation;
praise God, my soul, for in him
are your health and salvation;
come all who hear,
into his presence draw near,
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who in all things
is wondrously reigning, shields you from harm
and is gently yet firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen
how your heart's wishes have been
granted by God's wise ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who with blessing
and power will defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you;
ponder anew what the Almighty can do:
God will for ever befriend you.

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again:
gladly for ever adore him.

Joachim Neander (1650–1680)
translated Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)(alt.)
Reproduced from CH4 CD-ROM edition, number 124

Shall we join our hearts and minds in prayer - let us pray

Loving Lord God You are indeed our King and champion of all creation. Your mighty deeds go beyond our human understanding, but we look at all we see and hear and we bow in awe before You. This day is a special day Father God, like all days You have once more created it and so as we draw breath we should rejoice and be glad in it.

Heavenly Father once more we gather in the name of Your only begotten Son Jesus to worship You through that dearest of names. We give all the glory honour to You for You deserve our very best, even as we keep together through these virtual ways, we know You sit beside us as we sing, pray and listen to the word You have inspired.

Lord forgive us for all the sins we have entered into this week. Try though we might there is always a slip up at some point in our Christian walk. Help us anew to be Holy for You are Holy, to be patient and loving, for You are patient and loving and to be faithful and trustful of Your providence and care.

Loving Lord God we bring our beloved prayer Jesus taught and we repeat it before You now when we all say together....

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors,
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
For Thine is the Kingdom the power and the glory
for ever
Amen.

Our Scripture Readings

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 and Romans 7 verses 15-25a

let us hear the word of the Lord taken from the Good New Translation

Matthew 11 verses 16-19

16 “Now, to what can I compare the people of this day? They are like children sitting in the marketplace. One group shouts to the other, 17 ‘We played wedding music for you, but you wouldn't dance! We sang funeral songs, but you wouldn't cry!’ 18 When John came, he fasted and drank no wine, and everyone said, ‘He has a demon in him!’ 19 When the Son of Man came, he ate and drank, and everyone said, ‘Look at this man! He is a glutton and wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!’ God's wisdom, however, is shown to be true by its results.”

Matthew 11 verses 25-30

Come to Me and Rest

25 At that time Jesus said, “Father, Lord of heaven and earth! I thank you because you have shown to the unlearned what you have hidden from the wise and learned. 26 Yes, Father, this was how you were pleased to have it happen.

27 “My Father has given me all things. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. 30 For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.”

Romans 7 verses 15 - 25a from the Message New Testament

14-16 I can anticipate the response that is coming: “I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?” Yes. I'm full of myself—after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I

decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

17-20 But I need something *more*! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

21-23 It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

24 I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

25 The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

Let us sing along or just sit with eyes closed and listen to Graham Kendrick's comforting words of the song,

'Only by Grace can we enter',

The words speak of our cleansing by the blood of the lamb.

Nothing we have done or can do will save us from the wrath of God and destruction except the grace of God. For if we were all marked down by the things that we do wrong no one, not one Paul says in Romans 3:10-12 echoing the words of Psalm 14:1-3

10 As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.”

I ask you, could we stand before God as Holy and Righteous? Only Jesus covers us before God, cleansed by His blood we shall hear.

‘Only by Grace’.

Only By Grace Can We Enter
Only By Grace Can We Stand
Not By Our Human Endeavor
But By The Blood Of The Lamb

Into Your Presence You Call Us
You Call Us To Come
Into Your Presence You Draw Us
And Now By Your Grace We Come
Now By Your Grace We Come

Lord If You Mark Our Transgressions
Who Will Stand
Thanks To Your Grace
We Are Cleansed By The Blood Of The Lamb, Precious Lamb
Lord If You Mark Our Transgressions
Who Will Stand
Father Thanks To Your Grace
We Are Cleansed By The Blood Of The Lamb

Only By Grace Can We Enter
Only By Grace Can We Stand
Not By Our Human Endeavor
But By The Blood Of The Lamb
Into Your Presence You Call Us
You Call Us To Come
Into Your Presence You Draw Us
And Now By Your Grace We Come
Now By Your Grace We Come

<https://youtu.be/sV6MJrFBkDo>

My Reflection today is entitled : ‘Rest’ - for a change.

We know some people who are never content don't we. Never at peace with the world or themselves at times. Perhaps they are a bit

lost and don't know what way they should be for they shake their heads at all the ways offered. Nothing is the answer, everything is rubbish and is no good. Perhaps some feel that way at the moment as we watch governments struggle with the easing of local down.

I can begin to feel some of Jesus frustration then as He muses on His critics. They have no peace about them when it comes to thinking of Him. They do not rest in His loving care in the Kingdom, they live outside it still in sin. No rest for their souls.

Jesus says in verse

16 “Now, to what can I compare the people of this day? They are like children sitting in the marketplace. One group shouts to the other, 17 ‘We played wedding music for you, but you wouldn't dance! We sang funeral songs, but you wouldn't cry!’

What Jesus is referring to is a game the children of the day played, now lost to antiquity. One side would play out the wedding joy all happy and the other side would look miserable and not join the game, each camp would take an opposite view of the rule. Jesus might be saying “look at those children they cannot agree on anything. But that is what many of You Jews around me are like as well”. Never happy!

verse 18 When John came, he fasted and drank no wine, and everyone said, ‘He has a demon in him!’ 19 When the Son of Man came, he ate and drank, and everyone said, ‘Look at this man! He is a glutton and wine drinker, a friend of tax collectors and other outcasts!’ God's wisdom, however, is shown to be true by its results.”

You see , people were concerned that Jesus, who they thought of as a holy man, was spending His time socialising with people of a disreputable character.

Thanks be to God, though, for those people who are willing to love you, warts and all.

A true friend will loves you just as you are. Jesus who will spend Himself for disreputable characters in need of a doctor to the soul. Ok so you and I might not be disreputable characters hopefully, but He does love and help sinners to change. As He said these who are well don't need the doctor.

“So what do want from life?” Jesus could say. “You would not follow John because He was inaccessible and a bit strange and now I come and sit with you eat and drink with you and call sinners to repent and you call me a glutton and no good either. You must make up Your mind what relationships you value”.

You know, those who criticise constantly will never be content with what they have and what they want in a Saviour like Jesus, for they are so unwilling to change themselves.

Now maybe we, ourselves, think at times following Jesus is too difficult, maybe we would rather Jesus held more attributes just like us.

Then perhaps we feel a bit like Paul who states that He is wanting to do good and failing and in weakness, sinning, even though he knew that to be wrong and evil. Wow you might say? If Paul was like that what chance have we got in being good?

Like Paul though, the greatest blessing of having Jesus for a friend. He loves us just the way we are. He doesn't ask you to change before He will love you. He died for us while humanity was still living in sin.

His truth, though, offers no excuse to the person who wants to live in sin.

Jesus expects us, His children, to live clean lives and do the best we can by His grace. However, when we fail, and we do often, He doesn't give up on us. He does what a friend should do, He comes

along side us by His Spirit to remind us that He still loves and cares for us in our times of need.

Jesus loves us in spite of our failures! We never have to earn His love. And that is comforting news for all.

Eph. 1:6.

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Our relationships with God and with each other all come down to trust and love doesn't it. For who should we form a loving relationship with if we cannot trust them or bring ourselves to care for them when they are in need. That is the foundation of a good marriage, a covenant of trust. We live in a new covenant with our Lord built on grace and love. We trust in Jesus' promises and He trusts us to keep the faith.

We struggle at times to do good. How we beat ourselves up at times for failing to be a good person all the time. Sure we can have good days and bad ones and some in between. Jesus asks us gently come to Him when we burden ourselves with guilt, when we cannot release a the habit that chains us even when we know the Holy Spirit is calling us to confess the sin and to lay down our burden at the foot of the cross.

To let Jesus by His spirit cleanse and sanctify us.

To take the weight of sin from our shoulders. All our hope is in Jesus then. Only He can say to us and make us understand how we can be Kingdom people by being regenerate in spirit, walking forward to the light from the darkness, looking forward in joy and hope not back to the night and the sinful times in our lives.

What can we say then about the relationship with Jesus this day. Are we for laying down the burden of sin. Are we praying Lord take this thorn in my side away from me, take it now, hurry Lord and let me be free.

Chains that fall,
desperate breaths above the water gasping for air,

the tearing of bonds that bound us as we break free.

Jesus Lord of all take these sinful thoughts and ways away we might pray.

Paul reminds us

Romans 7verse 24 and 25a.

**Who will rescue me from this body that is taking me to death?
25 Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

Friends let me ask you a leading question. One you may not have thought of, but now when you think about it you see the idea. Is part or in whole our identity tied up in our sin so that we feel we risk losing some of ourself if we give them up. Are we not willing to give something that afflicts us, like gossip, overindulgence, greed selfishness all, love of money and possessions all away to Jesus to deal with.

That is exactly it, isn't it? Didn't we read last week He who loses his life will find it?

Matthew 10:39

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

How we choose to lose ourselves into Christ Jesus. We are a new creation, no more the old self, put on the new self Paul tells us in Colossians 3: 3-4

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is your^[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Yes we may be weak, we are desperate at times, sad because we cannot in our own strength break the chains of sin, but brothers and sister sin Christ that is the time God moves with strength in our lives. For the weaker we are the stronger we become in faith.

God wills to lift us up , he wills to restore us.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still waters.

Do we long for the peace Jesus offers in Mathew 11. A relationship where we can give all that ails us and hurts us to Jesus,

- offer ourselves as a living sacrifice and let Jesus have it all through the tears of pain or shame that become the tears of joy and love.
- Happiness like toothache being soothed, a pain of anxiety being relieved and peace and comfort like a warm balm filling us. All the cares and worries taken by Jesus encouraging us to see the glass half full not half empty.
- aiding us to see a different perspective on life. Is that what you long for today. Such a radical change? Rest for a change, not turmoil?

Dear listener is that the peace you need in your life now, do you need that love that acceptance that new identity? A new creation in Jesus - someone who is transformed by the Spirit of God? Someone who you would not recognise when you look back in wonder. Really the person who you are meant to be and whom God created to be, for it is all within us to follow Jesus closely and take up our cross with Him, that we might die to sin and rise in glory reflecting Jesus death on the cross at Calvary and the victory of life returning afresh in glory at the resurrection and ascension.

Life is like that. Life can be like that in every place with Jesus. When you open the door of your heart to Him he will come in and eat with you metaphorically speaking. He will socialise with you.

Nothing should be the same ever again. He changes the atmosphere we say. We learn of a new way of living. A blessed way of trusting God with our souls.

May I ask you then how long might we we look back, staring back to how it was. Was it all that good? Sure there was good moments, but the way forward in Jesus is beyond any nostalgic pangs we

knew. How sweet the sound of the voice of Jesus assuring us that when we remain unsure for the future our relationship with Him is a treasure and we can read these words once more with assurance that we are loved and cared for and given a purpose in life.

28 “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. 30 For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.”

Let us pray into what we have reflected upon and what we know of as the needs of the world around us.

: *Music under*

Lord Jesus help us to see that what You say is truth and is a revelation to lift our eyes from the floor to the rising light of the love of Heaven for each soul that breaths in the precious air Gods gives in His great providence.

For every head that was bowed in depression, loneliness and illness,

every eye that could only behold violence and hate,
the eye that knew only sin so great the weight was crushing the soul.

Lord be with all those brothers and sisters in Christ, may we dream the dreams You give,

have the visions of the way You lay before us,

Let us worship and pray with joy in the heart and ask God to speak from Heaven and come down to guide us in the paths of righteousness where we know surely such a way that washes away doubt and fear and opens the new person that we would be and a new way we would grasp as we emerge slowly from the dwam of lock down. Lock down in the world, lock down in our souls.

Heavenly Father we think of all those in desperate need of a saviour across this world today, where there is the Covid virus, where there is violence and war, refugees and prisoners. Where

there is fire flood and drought. Father in Your mercy bring peace and comfort and save us.

Where the Church calls out for guidance, where our rulers struggle in desperate need of wisdom, Lord God save them too.

Where the earth moans as it is plundered and savaged by our wasteful and cruel ways Father God bless and save Your creation.

For ourselves Lord where we struggle daily, to make ends meet, to keep our heads above water through loneliness, illness and depression or addiction, Abba Father in Jesus name save us.

Almost like survivors Lord we stand up slowly before You in wonder at the horizon that stretches before us in mission if we but reach out and grasp it as Your will asks of us.

Let us where we sit, close our eyes, place our hands in open gesture to receive and hear these words that I say for us all this day.

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Loving Heavenly Father renew us, restore that first love we found in Jesus, strengthen our souls to serve. For those who wish to know You this day come Holy Spirit open their hearts to receive Jesus.

Take these burdens of sin, the weight of worry, the weight of illness and pain in our hearts, for we give them to You Lord Jesus as You encourage us to do.

Lord Jesus we take up the gift once more of peace only You can give, not like the earth gives, but a peace that goes beyond our understanding.

Thank You Lord that You are here now, You are ministering to us right now as we receive you in our hearts, within our minds within our soul.

Deep calling out to deep,
embrace us now as we wait on You and pray in the precious name of Jesus.

Let us sit just for a little while longer into presence in quiet reflection bringing those we love before the Lord in prayer.

Fade music after 30 -45 seconds.

Amen.

We conclude our worship time with

CH4 540 I heard the voice of Jesus say come not me and rest.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto Me, and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water: thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I’ll walk
Till trav’ling days are done.

Thank you for tuning in until we meet again God willing

Let us hear the words of the blessing.

Let us go in the joy and peace of the Lord laying down our burdens of sin before Him in prayerful worship as we go through this coming week and may we all go in joy and peace and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, go with us now and always.

Amen

Voluntary:-

Choral Song by Samuel Wesley