

Service of Celebration

Snitterfield Methodist Church

18th June 2017 4pm

Welcome & Introduction

Hymn – And Can It Be? Singing the Faith 345

- 1 And can it be that I should gain
 an interest in the Saviour's blood?
 Died he for me, who caused his pain?
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be
 that thou, my God, shouldst die for me? (2)

- 2 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
 Who can explore his strange design?
 In vain the first-born seraph tries
 to sound the depths of love divine.
 'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
 let angel minds enquire no more. (2)

- 3 He left his Father's throne above –
 so free, so infinite his grace –
 emptied himself of all but love,
 and bled for Adam's helpless race.
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
 for, O my God, it found out me! (2)

- 4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
 fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 thine eye diffused a quickening ray –
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
 my chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed thee. (2)

- 5 No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
 Alive in him, my living Head,
 and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. (2)

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession, Lord's Prayer

Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hymn – Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven

Singing the Faith

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- 1 Praise my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like thee his praises sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
Praise him, still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

- 3 Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

- 4 Angels in the height, adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte (1793 – 1847)

Organ Solo – Richard Norris

Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Sermon

Hymn – One More Step Along The World I Go Singing the Faith 476

- 1 One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you:
*and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*
- 2 Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:
*and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*
- 3 As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know:
*and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*
- 4 Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
*and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*
- 5 You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
*and it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*

Sydney Carter (1915 – 2004)

Prayers of Thanksgiving for the life of Snitterfield Methodist Church

A: For one hundred and thirty-four years of worship and service, God of our past **we praise you**

B: For one hundred and thirty-four years of fellowship and love, God of our past **we praise you**

A: For sacrifices made and lives transformed, God of our past **we praise you**

B: For faith lived out, cherished and handed on, God of our past **we praise you**

A: For being with us when we are afraid, God of our present, **we thank you**

B: For holding us close when we are unsure, God of our present, **we thank you**

A: For healing our wounds and drying our tears, God of our present, **we thank you**

B: For being our light in the midst of darkness, God of our present, **we thank you**

A: We ask for direction. God of our future, **hear our prayer**

B: We ask for faith. God of our future, **hear our prayer**

A: We ask for blessing beyond all we can ask or imagine. God of our future, **hear our prayer**

B: We ask for peace of mind and heart. God of our future, **hear our prayer**

A: We ask for your presence with us, knowing that if we have you, we have all we need.
God of our future, **hear our prayer**

B: We pray to the Father, in the name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

A: God says, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. What I have been, I will always be. Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you

Hymn – This, This Is The God We Adore

Singing the Faith

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1 This, this is the God we adore,
our faithful, unchangeable friend,
whose love is as great as his power,
and neither knows measure nor end:

2 'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.

Joseph Hart (1712 – 1767)

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn – Hymn to the Cosmos

- 1 Where the willow dips its branches,
 Where the waters meet the sky,
 Where the swallow dives and dances
 There the Deity is nigh,
 In the smiles of little children,
 In the actions of a friend,
 In the joy of simple pleasures –
 Trust and love without an end.

- 2 As the world rolls through the ages,
 As the wars and strife increase,
 As the kings and priests and sages
 Seek in vain a hallowed peace;
 It will come when all the nations,
 It will come – that Holy Day,
 It will come when Jew and Gentile,
 Black and White, together pray.

- 3 Man in hope can climb the mountain,
 Man has walked upon the moon.
 Man must tap the crystal fountain,
 Pierce the everlasting gloom.
 We shall reach into the Cosmos;
 We, in love, shall range abroad.
 We shall find in Life Eternal
 All the Universe adored.

Words and Music by Harry Marlow

Reading

Romans 8:31-39

- 1 Thine be the glory
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay:
*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*
- 2 Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hast lost its sting:
*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won*
- 3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above:
*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won*

Edmond Budry (1854 – 1932)

translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875 – 1939)

Benediction

Members of Snitterfield would like to thank friends across the circuit for coming to share in this service, and for your love, prayers and support over recent times. God Bless you all.