

**Traditional Home service  
Sunday 24th January Epiphany 3**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and  
miracles the wonder of your saving  
presence: renew your people with your  
heavenly grace, and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OF PENITENCE**

God our Father, we come to you in  
sorrow for our sins.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your  
love. Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your  
salvation, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
Amen.**

**PRAISE**

Let everything be said and done in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to  
God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms,  
hymns and sacred songs:

Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.  
Open our lips, Lord:  
**and we shall praise your name.**

*HYMN 1 (Tell out my soul)*

**READINGS** - Genesis 14.17-20  
Revelation 19.6-10  
John 2.1-11

**TALK**

**CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth. I believe in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of  
the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was  
buried; he descended to the dead. On  
the third day he rose again; he ascended  
into heaven, he is seated at the right  
hand of the Father, and he will come to  
judge the living and the dead. I believe in  
the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness  
of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Spend some time praying for our nation,  
our community and our families.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your  
name, your kingdom come, your will be  
done, on earth as in heaven. Give us  
today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver  
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and for  
ever. Amen.

*HYMN 2 (The church's one foundation)*

**CONCLUSION**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen

## HYMNS TO USE

**Tell out, my soul**, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
Tender to me the promise of his word;  
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
To children's children and forever more!

**The church's one foundation**  
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
we are a new creation  
by water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and taught us  
what perfect love can be;  
through life and death he sought us,  
and rose to set us free.

The church in ev'ry nation  
is one through all the earth;  
our charter of salvation,  
one God, one faith, one birth;  
one name together blessing,  
one holy food we share,  
to one hope ever pressing,  
at one in work and prayer.

Still, schisms, tribulation,  
and hatred fuel our war;  
we wait the consummation  
of peace forevermore.  
The saints their watch are keeping;  
their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
shall be the morn of song.

Yet we on earth have union  
with God, the Three in One,  
and mystic, sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones and holy!  
God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
may live eternally.

Sermon for 24th January 2021  
Peter Smethurst - Revelation 19:6-10

I loved Louise's talk last week because she put all of her emphasis on Jesus. She even quoted from one of my favourite songs "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

Today I'm going to do something that I've never done before – which is teach on the subject of Angels.

When I was reading the passage from Revelation 19 that Linda read for us I was struck by vs 9 and 10 where the Angel is dictating to St John God's words that he wants him to write down and John is so overwhelmed that he falls down at the Angels feet in order to worship him and the Angel says: **No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers and sisters who testify about their faith in Jesus. Worship only God.** Since then it seems like whatever I read or listen to involves Angels in some form or other. I did a computer search on the Bible and found 392 references to "Angel" or "Angels" spread from Genesis to Revelation.

I cannot cover everything this morning but given that the most important event in history was the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ it is interesting to note that Angels were involved throughout. In order for Jesus to be born as both fully God and fully man God entrusted the Angel Gabriel to take His Word to Mary and when she accepted God's word spoken by Gabriel she became impregnated by the Word of God.

As per Gabriel's instructions Mary called the child in her womb "Jesus". He is God's living Word, and in due time the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. The Angels celebrated at Jesus birth and announced it to the shepherds.

It was an Angel who told Joseph that it was safe for him to marry Mary because the child in her womb was the son of God. An Angel also warned Joseph twice of what to do to avoid those who were trying to kill Jesus.

When Jesus was baptised by John the

Baptist he was filled with the Holy Spirit and led in to the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. At the end of His 40 day fast Matthew 4:11 records **Then the devil left Him; and Angels came and ministered to Him** the Greek word for Minister means to wait upon or serve and the Amplified Bible adds [**bringing Him food and serving Him**].

When Jesus was drained in the Garden of Gethsemane Luke records (22:43) **An Angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.**

When the mob came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Peter tried to defend him but Jesus told him that if He called on Father, and He would at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of Angels. If Jesus had not chosen to lay down his life for us then no one could have taken it from him.

It was Angels that announced Jesus resurrection to the women who were the 1st to come to the tomb of Jesus.

Concerning the second coming - Jesus said in Matthew 25:31 **"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy Angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**

The first thing that we need to understand is that Both Angels and humans are created by God and despite what Hollywood repeatedly tells us men and women do not turn into Angels when they die.

Angels are spiritual beings and the writer to Hebrews states: **Are not all Angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?** (Hebrews 1:14)

The letter to the Hebrews goes to some length to show how much greater Jesus is than Angels and I like most Christians have taken that as a cue to largely ignore the Ministry of Angels. The danger is that we humans have a tendency to go from one extreme to another – particularly when it comes to the supernatural.

We have a tendency to either become fascinated by both Holy Angels and fallen Angels, and their leader the devil. Alternatively we ignore them altogether.

Neither of these alternatives is wise and we need the balance that comes from studying the Word of God.

I have been reminded recently about what King David was inspired to write in Psalm 103:2: **"Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not ALL his benefits-- "**

These days God's Angels are definitely one of His forgotten benefits.

There are many references in the old Testament about Angels protecting those who love God.

Psalm 91 tells us that If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, [then]

no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your dwelling. For He will command His Angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

God's Angels are innumerable – there are too many to count and each child that is born has at least one guardian Angel.

In Matthew 18:10 when talking about children Jesus said **"Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their Angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven."**

There is nothing in Scripture whatsoever to suggest that we lose our Angels as we get older!

Psalm 103:20 in the Literal Translation of the Bible gives us insight on the primary job description of Angels: **Bless Jehovah, O Angels of His; mighty in strength; doing His Word; listening to the voice of His Word.**

The spirit beings known as Angels are servants of God who are appointed by Him to listen to the voice of HIS word and to do it.

We know from Scripture that God's Angels are encamped about us even though we cannot see them - unless our spiritual eyes are opened.

The Angels are listening to every word that we say – they are listening for "the voice of His word"

We know that Jesus is the living Word and that He said that His words would never pass away but were spirit and life.

The Bible declares itself to be the Word of God but on the printed page God's Word has no voice.

It is up to us to give voice to His Word.

This is what the Angels are listening for. They are listening for US to voice His Word.

Jesus said: **"the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."**

We have been given the keys to the kingdom of heaven and what we say can either bind or loose the power of heaven.

When we say that something is permitted on earth then it is permitted in heaven and when we speak out our resistance on earth it is resisted in heaven.

When we speak the Negative things that Satan whispers in our ears then we bind the Angels and when we speak God's word into a situation then we loose the Angels that are sent to help us.

If we have the word of God in our hearts then they will come out of our mouth and the Angels will do what we say. Jesus said: [John 15:7 ] **If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

This is yet another good reason for studying God's Word, and for ensuring that we keep our spoken declarations in line with that Word.

We need to remember what the Angel told St John – we do not worship Angels we only worship God. We do not pray to Angels we only pray to the Father.

But if we are to remember ALL God's benefits for us we need to remember that the Angels are listening to what we say - and if we give voice to the Word of God that is in our hearts then the Angels will work on our behalf to see that God's Word is carried out on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen