

## Teaching/prayer session in the chapel

Those who have signed up on “A” wing will be meeting 08.45 to 09.45 today, in the chapel. I can't give any information on future weeks just now.

**Brian**

## Worship for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021

*from Brian & Clare Kennard*

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us...with every spiritual blessing.” (Ephesians 1:3)

**Suggested Hymn:** *Shine Jesus shine*

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE** is shining,

In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your word,  
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into Your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
So our faces display Your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

### Prayer time:

*Be still and focus on the awesome God we serve:  
great beyond all words, but revealing Himself  
through His Word, and most clearly through the  
Word who became flesh - the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Express your adoration, worship and praise in  
whatever ways you can.*

**The Bible says,** “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” ( 1 John 4: 8-9)

*Let God speak to you about the attitudes and actions that need changing in your life. Confess to Him your weaknesses and failures, and receive His cleansing and forgiveness as He has promised.*

### Prayer for today (“Collect”):

To set the earth ablaze, O God,  
your Son submitted to death on the cross,  
and from his cup of suffering  
you call the Church to drink.  
When we are tempted  
give us strength to run the race that lies before us,  
and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Reading:** If you have a Bible of your own, please read **Psalm 111**

### Reading: Ephesians 5: 1 - 20

<sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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“Live as  
children of  
light” (v.9)

### **Bible Study:**

*Rather like a puzzle page, first I have put some questions and then some of the answers at the end.*

v.1. We obviously can’t imitate God’s power and eternity of being, so what do you think Paul might mean?

v.2 What would it be like if a whole wing were “living a life of love”? How can Jesus be God the Son and yet be a sacrifice **to** God on our behalf?

v.3 Why does it matter how God’s children behave in this passing world?

v.4/7 How does talk about God’s “wrath” make you feel, and why?

v.8/13 The Bible often uses “light” and “dark” as pictures of God’s realm and Satan’s activity respectively. Why is this a helpful picture?

v.14 This is probably a quote from a hymn used in baptism services in the early church (see Romans 6:4 for more). Who needs to “wake up”?

v.18 Why is getting drunk a problem? Who would be better off keeping clear of alcohol altogether? Why do you think “being filled with the Spirit” (of God) is contrasted to drunkenness?

v.18 again. How do you understand “being filled with the Spirit” and what are the results of being filled?

v.19/20. This isn’t telling us to speak to each other only in songs! What does it mean?

*...and now, a few short answers:*

v.1 It’s God’s pure and loving deeds that we are to

imitate, as Jesus demonstrated here on earth. We need help! And God promises it...see v.18

v.2 We need to see that the sacrifice of the cross was not God punishing an innocent third party on our behalf, but more God taking upon Himself our failures and paying the penalty Himself.

v.3 A bad example spoils our testimony and puts off those around us from following Christ.

v.4/7 Be sure that the teaching of Jesus and the apostles is full of God’s implacable hostility to sin. We all need to get away from sin, it’s penalty and it’s power!

v.8/13 There is no need to keep good deeds secret! (see John 3:20-21)

v.14 The New Testament tells us “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1John 5:19) Most people don’t realise they’re asleep, unaware of eternal realities. Somebody needs to sound a warning!

v.18 Under the influence of alcohol, people say and do things which they’d never do ordinarily, as some of you know only too well. The Spirit of God also leads us to say and do things out of our ordinary experience, but in that case it is always good, positive and a blessing to those around us!

v.19 The language of this country is English; in Germany, it is German (surprise!). The language of the Kingdom of God is thankfulness, praise to God and encouragement to those we live with!

### **Prayers of intercession**

In your own words, remember before God...people affected by severe weather in many parts of the world..those in authority in this country and around the world grappling with the present crisis ....all those “on the front line” whether NHS staff, transport workers, shop workers, the emergency services...those most personally affected by the Covid-19 outbreak: the bereaved, those seriously ill, those who have already lost their jobs.. the Church of Jesus Christ as together we seek to witness to the love and care of God in word and action....and the many other difficult problems humanity faces...and for yourself and your family. Remember, too, thankfulness!

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**The blessing:** Now may the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with and remain with us always. **Amen.**