

So God, we trust in You. O God, we trust in You.

O fearful saints new courage take;
the clouds that you now dread
are big with mercy and will break
in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust Him for His grace.
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling
face.

So God, we trust in You. O God, we trust in You.
When tears are great and comforts few
we hope in mercies ever new. We trust in You.

God's purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in
vain.
God is His own interpreter and He will make it plain.

Do you feel the world is broken? *We do.*
Do you feel the shadows deepen? *We do.*
Do you know that all the dark won't stop
the light from getting through? *We do.*
Do you wish that you could see it all made new?
We do.

Is all creation groaning? *It is.*
Is a new creation coming? *It is.*
Is the glory of the Lord
to be the light within our midst? *It is.*
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? *It is.*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's root and the Lamb who died
to ransom the slave.*

Is he worthy? Is he worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory?
Is he worthy of this?
He is!

Does the Father truly love us? *He does!*
Does the Spirit move among us? *He does!*
And does Jesus our Messiah
hold forever those he loves? *He does!*
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? *He does!*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah, who conquered the grave,
He is David's ruler and the lamb who died to ransom
the slave.*

*From every people and tribe,
every nation and tongue,
he has made us a kingdom and priests to God
to reign with the Son.*

Is he worthy? Is he worthy?
Of all blessing and honour and glory?
Is he worthy of this?

*He is! He is! He is! He is!
He is worthy, he is worthy!
Of all blessing and honour and glory.
He is worthy of this. He is.*

CLOSING PRAYER from Revelation 5
"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour and glory and power,
for ever and ever!" **Amen**

SERMON NOTES Jeremiah 29:1-14

God's plans are not out plans

God's plans are wonderful

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Sunday 27 December 2020

Welcome to today's virtual service!

WELCOME Watch the video of Rich's welcome.

*Our first song gives glory to King Jesus, born to save
the world.*

SONG

All creatures of our God and King
Come to his cradle now and sing
O praise Him! Hallelujah!
Thou, angel host with golden beam
Thou, Christmas star with silver gleam
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Our heav'nly king with royal crown
With grace and mercy has come down
O praise Him! Hallelujah!
Praise, praise the one come to redeem
Not stopped by Herod's evil scheme
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All wayward souls who art condemned
Look to the star in Bethlehem
O praise Him! Hallelujah!
Come all ye shepherds, come wise men,
Christ born that ye be born again!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We here the church with joyful cheer
Welcome the king who has come near
O praise Him! Hallelujah!
Bring gifts of incense, gifts of gold
See all God's promises unfold
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Giving glory to King Jesus, born to save his people.
Glory to King Jesus, born to save the world.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

BITESIZE

How will you read the bible in 2021?

BIBLE READING

from Revelation 5:1-10

Earlier in the year we looked at this part of Revelation, showing that Jesus is worthy to bring about God's plans ("open the scroll") because he died for us.

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, **"Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?"** ³But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. ⁴I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

⁵Then one of the elders said to me, **"Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."**

⁶Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and

people and nation.

¹⁰**You have made them to be a kingdom and**

priests to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth."

We have hope because Jesus has died for us, and will come again to complete all God's plans

SONG

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

Christ alone; cornerstone

Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.

Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

When Darkness seems to hide His face

I rest on His unchanging grace

In every high and stormy gale

My anchor holds within the veil

When He shall come with trumpet sound

Oh, may I then in Him be found.

Dressed in His righteousness alone

Faultless I stand before the throne.

PRAYERS

Father we thank you Jesus has triumphed, and is worthy to open the scrolls and bring about your plans.

Thank you that because of him we have a solid hope for the future. Thank you that we can look forward to the day when he will return and put everything right.

We are sorry Father for the times we forget that you are working to bring everything together under Jesus.

We are sorry for the times we more excited by our immediate hopes and plans than the eternal hope we have in you. We are sorry for the times we are distracted and discouraged by our plans going wrong.

Please forgive us and help us to trust your plans and remember the great hope we have.

Please will 2021 be a year in which we are able to share our hope with others. Help us to be always ready to give the reason for our hope, please give us opportunities to speak to others, and please give us boldness to make the most of those opportunities. Please will many more people be included in your plans through our witness this coming year.

And please help our mission partner Lydia Panter as she shares her hope in Christ with international students. Thank you for the relationships she has been able to build. Please will you use her to draw these students to you. And please give her wisdom as she makes plans for the future.

*We ask all these things in Jesus' name, **Amen.***

As we come to look at the bible together, this song is a prayer that God will speak to us and help us grasp the heights of his plans for us.

SONG

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

to receive the food of your holy Word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us;

shape and fashion us in your likeness,

that the light of Christ might be seen today

in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us

all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,

holy reverence, true humility;

test our thoughts and our attitudes

in the radiance of your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see

your majestic love and authority.

Words of pow'r that can never fail -

let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;

help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.

Truths unchanged from the dawn of time

that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on your promises,

and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.

Speak, O Lord, till your church is built

and the earth is filled with your glory.

BIBLE READING & TALK

from Rich Adam

Jeremiah 29:1-14

In our closing song we commit to trust God as he works out his purposes and plans. This is followed by a song that we are not familiar with at Emmanuel, which praises Jesus that he is able to bring about God's plans. Join in if you can, or just watch and praise Jesus.

SONGS

God moves in a mysterious way

His wonders to perform.

He plants His footsteps in the sea

and rides upon the storm.

Deep in His dark and hidden mines,

with never-failing skill,

He fashions all His bright designs

and works His sovereign will.