

**ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**e-SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2020**  
**ALL AUTHORITY**

**WELCOME and TREAT THESE WORDS AS AN OPENING PRAYER.**

- ❖ Welcome to our eService on this Sunday when we as usual look at your inspired word to encourage us and guide us on our walk with you.
- ❖ We may know of Your presence O Lord through the working of the Holy Spirit amongst us.
- ❖ So we may be blessed.

Our **FIRST HYMN**

94 – Come let us sing of a wonder love,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fJ2hiATs2s>

**READING**

**Matthew 28:18 and 19 – 20**  
**The Great Commission**

**<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of **all** nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’

**SECOND HYMN**

992 I’m not ashamed to own my Lord,

This hymn encourages us to own our Lord and not to do a Peter denial that is so easy to do when faced with a hostile encounter. An unusual

video picture to look at, and I know Janet and Trevor will spot immediately that it was shot in Australia.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCXu-LZJX8w>

## NOTICES

### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

One of our regular requesters for prayer (we believe from NZ) through our ABC website sent in the following. It is a request for all of us. So we can pray this for ourselves.

- ♣ Please pray for me God,
- ♣ Teach us what it means to have faith in silence. When we face trials that are beyond our understanding,
- ♣ Help us to find peace.
- ♣ Help me be joyful in hope,
- ♣ Patient in affliction, and
- ♣ Faithful in prayer.
- ♣ You set all things in accordance to your time.
- ♣ Remind us to wait patiently, and
- ♣ Find peace in your plan.
- ♣ Thank you and God bless.
- ♣ .....

### THIRD HYMN

702 Through all the changing scenes of life

We do not live a static life; it and our surroundings are always changing. We have in the past five months lived in the greatest change and that which came upon us so quickly; some said since 1348 with The Black Death! Perhaps even 1066. Yet our Lord is of course unchanging and our bedrock on which we stand firm.

No guesses as to the video's location. It is of course the WWII bombed Coventry Cathedral and its 1950 replacement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox1r0Ozlwoo>

## THOUGHTS

- I asked Robin if I could conduct the Service for if in earthly terms we wanted an example of Authority -- who would come to mind? A teacher, particularly the head, the police, our minister, a judge, or of course our own Ginny as both a Town and District Councillor ... the list could go on. The ultimate head for our earthly Authority is of course HM Queen. Whilst she may wish to, she cannot undertake all the roles of authority that are required to govern our country, so she has people appointed to these roles. Then just to make it clear that these people are acting on her behalf their job titles can begin with her name. After considerable scrutiny I ended up as one such with the title as -- One of Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories, now part of the HSE. So I thought that I would qualify as an earthly example of "authority". We were invested with numerous powers of authority to enforce the law for worker's and others safety, health and welfare.
- So as I acted under HM's authority, so we act under Jesus' authority and I offer this as a parallel between earthly and heavenly authority.
- With this authority (earthly or heavenly) comes great responsibility to act correctly. On joining I like all Civil Servants (CS) was given the "Civil Service Code of Conduct" and as I expected it is of course online for all to see. If you wish to read it the link is

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-code/the-civil-service-code>

- In particular I thought it would be topical to look at
- *Impartiality*

*You must:*

- *carry out your responsibilities in a way that is fair, just and equitable and reflects the Civil Service commitment to equality and diversity*

*You must not:*

- *act in a way that unjustifiably favours or discriminates against particular individuals or interests*
- Despite some recent criticisms in this regard the UK civil servants have a high reputation complying with the Code.

- In acting impartially you will see that the CS Code does not mention any particular people or groups by name, as to do so would disadvantage others. If our actions fell short we would amend our ways whilst maintaining the high standard for all else.
- Now let us look at some heavenly instructions. Our reading to day Christ says He has all authority in heaven and earth, and then goes on to give us the Great Commission to act on His behalf. Thus also authority to act for Him in carrying out our duties. We are his workers as I was for the Queen.
- In **Luke 10:2** He (Jesus) told them, *'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.* Authority to go into the harvest field of people and convert them. You bring in all of the harvest it is not for the workers to discriminate. In the CS we were always inundated with work; the harvest field was vast. So is our heavenly field, there are 7+ billion souls!!!
- Our biblical instruction as to how we are to act comes from our Lord who said in
  - **Matthew 7: 12** *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*
  - It is a pity all in society do not follow this command. We too often read of acts that transgress this standard. Peacemakers seem in short supply. In the CS we spent much of our time as peacemakers (including some international workers!) and we often thought we could apply as a diplomat in Moscow!? Peacemakers do need authority and to be respected by both sides.
  - **Matthew 5:9** *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*
- Then we read in
  - **John 6 :37** *All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.*
  - Again note all and whoever -- there are no exceptions; it is all. No one is going to be driven away.

Remember the bad example when the apostles thought they would be helpful in turning away children. Jesus said to them

## The little children and Jesus

**Luke 18:15** People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'

- All to be treated the same.
- Final thought about authority. Recently an ABCer in requesting prayer ended "... and under the authority of Jesus." For this is whom we act and serve. Indeed.

## FOURTH HYMN

18 – All over the world the Spirit is moving

We need to remind ourselves that it is the moving of the spirit everywhere that moves Christianity onwards and upwards; encouraging us. Location Singapore.

So again sing along with this joyous song. The conductor will have you on your feet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skGUll6HzXg>

## CLOSING PRAYER

This is the closing words of exhortation from Jesus' brother Jude's letter. Note please the description of our God through Jesus of being -- glory, majesty, power and authority -- which are reflected in us to carry out His heavenly work here on earth; as they were from HM in my earthly appointment.

## Doxology

<sup>24</sup> To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Saviour be **glory, majesty, power and authority**, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen.