

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Let your light shine

Our aim today is to meet with the Lord and worship Him. We can also learn from Him and learn more of how we can respond to His love for us.

Let us listen to a hymn of praise.

Hymn 560 Praise my soul the King of Heaven

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyRIVbdsi4c>

Let us pray.

Father we wish to praise your name and the name of Jesus this morning. Thank you for all you mean to us and help us to love you more. You have provided so many good things for us in this life and eternal hope in Jesus. We see a little of what it cost the Lord to become our redeemer and we thank you for it.

We remember those you have provided for our blessing and ask that we may be a blessing to others.

Hymn 109 Crown Him with many crowns

[https://youtu.be/YuMh\\_ept-Js](https://youtu.be/YuMh_ept-Js)

## **Intercessory and Praise Prayers**

Let us pray for

Family members and their needs

Those of our fellowship. Specially those who are unwell and those we have not seen for a while

The emergency services

Those working to provide essential services

Those suffering persecution for their faith in Christ

Those seeking to help and provide for members of the persecuted Church.

Hymn 449 Love divine all loves excelling

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwHxRxER650>

## **Bible readings:**

### Matthew 5:13 -16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

### Galatians 5:16-26

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Hymn 254 I am a new creation

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

A while back I was rummaging in an upstairs bookcase when I found an old copy of Pilgrims Progress. I read a few pages and then wondered where this book had come from. It turned out to be an adult Sunday

School Bible Class prize to E. Hembrough. I realised that this was my great grandmother and it made me think of what I knew of her.

Elizabeth Hembrough was born of a farming family in Warwickshire. Her surname was Wright. She married a man from the Hembrough family and they had a daughter and then he deserted her and went to live in Australia. From the point of view of today's talk he no longer matters. Elizabeth found herself living in one of the roughest parts of Birmingham. Many of you will now have heard of the Peaky Blinders TV series. It was an area where police officers never went on their own. Well, that was the area she was living in.

Elizabeth was a very godly woman. My mother told me that she had taught herself to read from the Bible. She became deeply respected so that although she was a small woman she had no fear of walking those dangerous streets on a winter's night. She had a little drapers shop and I was told that she never needed to lock it. She never approved of the evil around her and she maintained her Christian standards of living.

I was watching a program on television some time ago. It was part of a series on notable ancestors. This one was about a man who became the first missionary to a part of New Guinea. At first he had a dreadful time. Men threw spears through the walls of his house when he was inside it. But gradually the people learned to respect him and even love him. Many were saved and he lived among them for the rest of his life. He had deeply impressed the people first by the sort of man he was.

Relatively recently a group of Christians felt a deep burden for the people of one of our northern towns. They discovered that no one wanted to know them because they were outsiders. A couple of these Christian families moved into the area. They found it very difficult for about two years, but slowly people began to accept and respect them. After that they could set up Church work. And this reflects something of the character of the Lord.

There are many similar accounts and in all of them we see that it was so important that people should see something special. I believe that that was why Jesus said we should let our lights shine before the people we live amongst. People should see good in us.

We can see that who we are and how we live is important, but where does the light come from?

In Galatians we see the answer to this question. It is the fruit of the spirit.

Recently someone wrote that in modern Britain there are many who want us to live by Christian standards but without God or Christ.

We often hear Christians speak of the gifts of the spirit. They are real and important and God gives them as He sees best.

But the fruit is something that should be seen in all of us. It is as the Holy Spirit works in our lives that we can be changed and show forth something of the light of God to the World.

We may sometimes feel a bit inadequate so I have chosen as our last hymn one that expresses a little of that feeling.

Hymn 111 Dear Lord and Father of mankind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqOnjmr9Ah0>

Let us pray.

Lord we often feel a little inadequate but you have chosen people like us to be witnesses to you and your glory. Help and bless us today so that we may be more able to show the light of you Spirit to the World  
Amen