

240526pm Sermon Transcript

James Midwinter

One Off: Into Your Hands

Psalm 31:1-24

(This sermon transcript is an extract of a video recording of the full service. The numbering is auto-applied and reflects the number of minutes into recording that the transcript relates to.)

24:27

Has anybody heard the life story of a man called Jeffrey Bull?

24:31

And I do not mean the cricketer, if that's the one you know.

24:34

Has anybody heard the life story of Jeffrey Bull?

24:37

I didn't know anything about him until this week.

24:40

He was born in 1921 in Eltham in southeast London.

24:46

Anybody from that neck of the woods?

24:49

Ah, it's lovely to have you if well, Jeffrey was born into what sounds like a very loving Christian family and grew up in a an Open Brethren church, faithful Open Brethren church, became a Christian at some point in his early years, baptized when he was 15.

25:06

And he had this growing heart for the whole of his growing up to serve the Lord somewhere.

25:13

And by the time he got to 20, he was convinced, if it were possible, that he would like to serve God somewhere in Central Asia and a particular heart for the country of Tibet.

25:26

And in 1947, when he was 26 years old, he made the long journey to China and went with somebody else.

25:37

And together they they managed to get into the interior in China.

25:41

And for three long years they learned as much as they possibly could of Mandarin and Tibetan.

25:49

Eventually, 29th of July, 1950, after I imagine what felt like a very long time, having gone through seminary, it does feel like a very long time, a long time of prayer and study and training.

26:02

He finally manages to get into Tibet, and this is what he wrote in his Bible.

26:07

Just before noon I crossed the River of the Golden Sand, which flows from the upper reaches of the Yangtze and set my foot down on Tibetan soil.

26:16

For me, a very great event.

26:21

Can imagine a man of that kind of age.

26:22

What would he be there, 29, nearly 30, looking at the whole of his ministry before him, equipped and ready and eager to surf?

26:32

Three months later, the Chinese army invaded that mountain region.

26:38

They raided the village, they raised their flag on the flagpole and they arrested Jeffrey.

26:47

He was arrested on the pretext of being a spy, and for 1150 days he was a prisoner of the Chinese army.

27:01

He was mentally and physically tortured.

27:04

For the first year he was kept in solitary confinement in a cell so small that it was difficult to turn around.

27:13

Apparently the Chinese called that year of self solitary confinement the self-conscious.

27:21

Their idea was, I don't know if they still do it today, but their idea then was that they would identify those who perhaps might be guilty in their eyes of an uprising of rebelling against state authority, and they would isolate them for an entire year so they would have a period of time to come to their senses.

27:45

When that period ended, he then had two more years of indoctrination and they had formal teaching that just hit all of their prisoners with communist teaching, Marxist teaching to try and retrain the brains of all of these people such that when they were eventually released, their whole way of thinking would have been retrained and they would simply form part of the norm where they lived.

28:12

They wanted to to get rid of any of these dangerous ideas potentially rearing their heads in the future.

28:21

He died in in 1999.

28:24

I listened to a recording this week of him sharing his life story, and there were many times in those three years where he hit rock bottom.

28:39

Every single thing that he had longed for had been taken from him.

28:47

All of his plans for ministry were gone.

28:50

Not only did he not have any friends to talk to, he didn't have any Tibetans to speak to Jesus with.

28:55

He didn't have anybody to talk to about anything.

29:00

And there were many times when Jeffrey asked the question every single one of us would ask if we were in that situation, Can I trust you, God?

29:12

When everything else is gone and life is as hard as it possibly can be, can I trust you God?

29:22

That's the same question that David was asking in Psalm 31.

29:28

And what I want us to do tonight is I want to show you how David answered that question because that will help us answer and see how Jesus answered that question.

29:41

And knowing that will help us see how we can answer that very same question.

29:46

Can I really trust you, God?

29:48

Let's look at David's story.

29:51

1st Psalm 31 shows us that David knew that even in anguish and distress, he could trust the loving hands that held him, could trust the loving hands that held.

30:05

And we don't know the circumstances that sit behind Psalm 31.

30:09

David doesn't tell us exactly what it is that's causing him all of this anguish and distress, but we do know that he was overwhelmed.

30:19

And we know that just from the structure of this Psalm before we even look at the content.

30:25

So just skim over this whole Psalm with me and you can see what's going on.

30:29

For for David, verses 1:00 to 5:00, he prays about his struggle in general, doesn't describe the detail, but he tells us how he turns to God and trusts in God.

30:40

And doing that brings verses 6 to 8, confidence and joy in God.

30:45

And there are many psalms that might stop there, but not this one.

30:51

Because with whatever is going on in David's life at this point, it is overwhelming his soul.

30:58

He can remember what is true about God and find wonderful truth.

31:02

6 to 8 in that.

31:04

But actually it doesn't stop there because David can't leave it there.

31:09

This man is unburdening more and more of his struggle before God.

31:12

So verses 9 to 13, they describe how desperate David is feeling.

31:19

You skim through those verses.

31:20

Here is a man who is right on the very edge.

31:23

This distress and anguish are flooding in.

31:26

Not in a way that undermines verses 1:00 to 8:00, but in a way that shows us that this is such a hard situation.

31:36

Merely remembering what is true about God wants will not be sufficient for David.

31:40

He needs to come back again and again because he's really, really struggling.

31:45

He knows what is true and what he needs to remember.

31:48

But putting it into practice is so hard.

31:52

And it's only after all of that, the double dip as it were, that David has this fresh sense of trust and joy and hope in God.

32:04

And that is not a copy and paste.

32:06

That's not I said it once, I say it again, that's I experienced it once.

32:12

But I was so overwhelmed by all of the struggle that I need to bring all of that to the Lord again in order to have a fresh and a deeper and a renewed sense of all that is true of God in himself.

32:26

It's only then that he's got a right perspective on life and eternity.

32:30

That's what he reminds himself in verses 19 to 22, and that it's what he calls others to remember in verses 23 to 24.

32:40

Even though we don't know the circumstances, the very structure of the Psalm shows us something of how much this man was struggling.

32:50

He knew what he believed, called it to mind.

32:53

But even then, the situation was so overwhelming that he's wrestling with all of that all over again and needs to them bring that to the Lord.

33:03

Because his life as what does he tell us was consumed by anguish and his years by groaning.

33:11

I find it really reassuring that there are Psalms like this in the Bible.

33:17

I am thankful for the honesty of men like David's who recorded what it was like to live under this kind of anguish and agony and distress and uncertainty, and to show us how you live out honest spiritual life before God in that kind of situation.

33:41

And perhaps you've known a situation like David's.

33:48

Perhaps you've known something so hard your strength failed because of your affliction and you felt like your bones grew weak.

33:59

Maybe you've had an experience similar to David's of facing something that was hard and bringing it to the Lord and feeling that that very real sense of peace and assurance and confidence.

34:11

But then, whatever it is that is before you overwhelmed you afresh, I left you feeling like you were reeling despite having found some assurance.

34:22

And you need to come back to the Lord again.

34:26

That's what David knew, and that's what Jeffrey knew too.

34:31

Jeffrey's circumstances are different to David's, but he experienced that same sense of desperation, and perhaps you do too.

34:44

So what do we do?

34:47

Let's learn from what David did.

34:50

He does basically 2 main things.

34:53

He clung to God's character and he committed his life into God's hands.

35:00

Start with him clinging to God's character.

35:04

All the way through this struggle, David comes back and back and back to what he knew to be true about God.

35:11

So few examples.

35:12

Look at verse one.

35:13

David's taken refuge in the Lord and then says, let me never be put to shame.

35:21

We could mishear that as saying that David's concerned for his own pride.

35:28

I want you, God, to protect me from being ashamed.

35:33

That's not what's happening.

35:35

David has run to the Lord for refuge, and everyone knows that David runs to the Lord for refuge.

35:46

So when David cries out, let me not be put to shame.

35:49

David is not thinking about his own name and his own reputation.

35:53

His great concern is that of the God to whom he has run for refuge.

35:59

Here is David saying that he doesn't want dishonour and shame being brought on God's name, because everybody knows that David's run to the Lord for safety.

36:09

You get the same argument in verses 2:00 and 3:00.

36:13

Work back from the end of verse 3.

36:15

David pleads with God to lead and guide him for the sake of God's name.

36:20

David's not concerned with his own name.

36:23

His reputation doesn't bother him.

36:25

He's concerned with God's name and God's reputation.

36:29

And he knows, beginning of verse three, that God is his rock and fortress.

36:34

That's objectively true.

36:35

David knows that even when things are hard, there are things that Christians can call to mind.

36:39

And that's what David does as an Old Testament believer.

36:41

He knows God is his refuge and fortress.

36:45

But now, verse two, now he prays to know that in his own experience, be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, since you are my rock and my fortress.

36:59

David is begging God to be to him now what he knows him to be if you follow my logic, and to do all of that for the sake of God's name, not David's.

37:12

David is clinging to God's character in our house.

37:19

I've had an insurance renewal week this week.

37:24

Home insurance and car insurance.

37:27

There's a double whammy in a single week and all of you, by the wry smiles on your faces, have had enough bad experiences with insurance companies to know that insurance policies often don't work well.

37:41

But they should work well.

37:45

It should be a very simple system.

37:47

It should be a system whereby you find a policy that's sufficient to cover your needs in the event of some accident or disaster or unexpected explosion or whatever it might be.

37:58

And then in your moment of crisis, you turn to another company.

38:06

And in doing so, your problem then becomes their problem, because that's what you pay them for, and that's what they've promised to do.

38:17

And this is how it should work.

38:20

Their actions then become a matter of their reputation such that if they do a shoddy job, word will get out and people will know.

38:32

I'm not going to use company names because I don't want to bring anything of disrepute onto the church.

38:37

But everybody would know you don't go to ABC company because if you do that, they never pay up.

38:44

They take months and months to deal with your complaint.

38:47

They never, ever do anything helpful.

38:49

And all of a sudden, if it were a just world, nobody would take any insurance policies out with ABC and they go out of business.

38:57

In the moment of crisis, the insurance company's name is the one that should matter.

39:05

Now, there's a sense in which David's doing the same thing here.

39:10

He's run to God for refuge, and now he's relying on God's own character to save him in his situation.

39:19

And what does he know of God's character?

39:21

Well, he knows verses two of one and three, that God is the protector.

39:26

Verse five, he's the faithful God.

39:28

He's the covenant Lord, verse 14, who keeps every promise that he makes.

39:33

He's the God of covenant hesed love, verses 7 and 16, who has shown David the wonders of his love in verse 21.

39:42

That's the God that David knew and clung to, and he's the God into whose hands David commits his life and says it twice in this Psalm.

39:57

Verses 5 and 15.

40:01

Remember that double dip at the end of each of those prayers of longing and despair, part of David's response to both.

40:12

Verse 5, Into your hands I commit my spirit.

40:16

Verse 15 My times are in your hands.

40:22

David knows he is not big enough to care for himself.

40:29

There is no fake bravado here.

40:33

You would not catch David saying I've got this.

40:40

David is very aware that his days are in God's hands and he willingly entrusts every moment of his life and his spirit into the hands of God.

40:55

Not that that immediately changes his circumstances.

40:59

And you see that verse 15, he uses a play on words to explain that thanks God that his times are in God's hands, but at the same time he prays, deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

41:14

So David's real life experience is that right here and now, some part of his life is very, in a very real sense.

41:22

It is in the hand, in the control of an enemy.

41:27

And yet here is David reminding himself that those small hands of his enemy are themselves under the control of the sovereign hands of God.

41:43

That is a remarkable example of faith at work.

41:49

But what's even more remarkable is that Jesus did exactly the same thing when Jesus prepared to die on the cross.

41:59

That's how Jesus fulfils this Psalm in ways that take it beyond David's own experience.

42:04

And that's what I want to encourage you with as we come to the Lord's Supper.

42:08

So if you've got a Bible, could you turn to Luke chapter 23?

42:16

Not going to work through all the detail of the narrative leading up to the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

42:20

I just want you to remind you of something of the picture before we get to the cross.

42:25

Luke 23.

42:27

Jesus has been brought before the two leaders of Pilate and Herod with all sorts of fake charges brought against him.

42:35

Not one of them sticks because Jesus has not broken any law, civil or moral.

42:42

But the two leaders both cave to the pressures of the people.

42:46

So Luke tells us from verse 26 onwards that Jesus, having been so brutally beaten, is unable to physically carry his own cross and that is given to Simon from Cyrene, carries it for Jesus.

43:06

We have 4 gospels who together record for US seven sayings of Jesus upon the cross and Luke records three of them.

43:17

Verse 34 Jesus asks his father to forgive his persecutors because they do not know what they're doing.

43:27

Verse 43 Jesus forgives the penitent thief on the cross.

43:35

Jesus promises this man who deserved to be on the cross, that by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, he could be with Jesus that day in paradise.

43:45

If you're here this morning, Ian did a brilliant job of explaining that truth.

43:50

As we think about what the Lord's Supper is all about.

43:52

Baptism isn't sufficient to save us.

43:54

The Lord's Supper isn't sufficient to save us.

43:57

Only Jesus is sufficient to save us, which is why the penitent thief who could do nothing about baptism or Lord's Supper was assured of his salvation upon the cross.

44:09

Then there's the third saying of Luke in verse 46, the very last words that Jesus said before he died.

44:17

Jesus called out in a loud voice, farther into your hands I commit my spirit.

44:25

And when he had said this, he breathed his last.

44:32

The very last words Jesus ever said was Psalm 31, verse five.

44:38

And that shows us that Jesus knew that even in anguish and death, he could trust the loving hands that held him.

44:51

Jesus experienced an agony and an anguish far beyond anything that Psalm 31 describes.

45:00

Not only did his strength fail because of his affliction, but those false accusations made him the contempt of his neighbors.

45:12

He became an object of dreads to his closest friends.

45:19

Remember where his disciples were.

45:20

As Jesus went through the trial and the crucifixion, the crowds had conspired against him and plotted to take his life.

45:31

That is the agony and the anguish that the Lord Jesus Christ had endured in the run up to and on the cross.

45:38

But that's only part of the physical reality.

45:44

The greater agony was bearing the just judgement of God.

45:50

For three whole dark hours, the Son of God took upon Himself the judgement of God's righteous anger against every sin every believer will ever commit.

46:09

But one final act remains.

46:13

For God's perfect justice to be upheld, the giver of life had to die.

46:22

And so Jesus's very last words were farther into your hands I commit my spirit.

46:33

Jesus is doing exactly what David did in Psalm 31.

46:37

In his humanity, Jesus clung to his Father's character and committed his life into his Father's hands.

46:47

But as with every Psalm where you see Jesus as the fulfillment of it, Jesus experience of all of that was greater than David ever knew.

46:56

Jesus experienced an even greater anguish and knew even more about God's character.

47:04

When you go back to Psalm 31, David seems to have this wonderful sense of confidence that God would rescue him from everything that he was going through.

47:13

Jesus knew that God couldn't.

47:16

The Son of God had to die in order for the penalty for our sin to be fully paid.

47:27

But Jesus also knew that God wouldn't abandoned him to the grave.

47:36

God would deliver him from death.

47:38

He would deliver his soul immediately, straight into the presence of God.

47:42

Three days later, he would raise his body from the grave as he was resurrected.

47:47

That's why Jesus so confidently put his life and his Spirit into his Father's hand even in the face of death, because Jesus knew that his death would defeat death for everyone who would trust in Him.

48:09

Which means as we come to the Supper, the single most important question you can ask is, do you know, whatever the circumstances, that you are entrusting your life into the loving hands of God?

48:32

That's what changed everything for Jeffrey.

48:36

He'd been through an experience like David's.

48:40

He'd had that experience, if you listen to his life story online, of bringing everything to the Lord and feeling a sense of real peace and assurance of the law being with him, and then suddenly being overwhelmed by the enormity of everything that happened in his imprisonment, and then coming back to experiencing that sense of the assurance of God's presence with him.

48:59

And so he's cried out.

49:01

He's experienced all of that.

49:02

And then years later as he's looking back on that, this is what Jeffrey said.

49:08

Sometimes God allows everything to be taken from us because He wants to become everything to us.

49:21

And so it is that he begins to show us our poverty and the exceeding riches of his grace.

49:32

That's what Geoffrey came to know.

49:36

The Chinese army could, humanly speaking, take everything from him, could take his ministry, could take his freedom.

49:45

His friends, they threatened even to take his life.

49:50

Jeffrey knew.

49:51

He knew in the core of his being that could never be shaken, that nothing, even life and death, could separate him from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

50:08

This is how Jeffrey described the hope that he found.

50:12

How wonderful a thing it is to know.

50:17

But the hands that hold us for eternity were pierced for us at Calvary.

50:26

And that, my dear friend, completes the bridge from David through Jesus to us.

50:37

Psalm 31 shows us that David had a great faith in a great God in which he was sustained despite an overwhelming flood of opposition.

50:52

He could trust God's character.

50:54

He could commit his life into God's hands.

50:56

But David didn't know how Jesus would fulfill Psalm 31.

51:01

David did not know that those divine hands that he would entrust his life to would have to be pierced as the Son of God sacrificed himself to keep us safe for eternity.

51:18

So as we come around to the table, don't have that temptation that we can often have when we read from the Psalms of thinking, I wish I had a faith like David's, there's a sense in which that's true and that's right.

51:31

And we have so much to learn from Him that our position in redemptive history is so much greater because we know how God can keep us in His hands forever.

51:50

You may be in a very hard season right now.

51:56

You may feel battered afresh every single day with those doubts and overwhelming feelings of anxiety and anguish.

52:06

And perhaps you have got to that point that David got to and Jeffrey got to, of bringing all of those things to the Lord in prayer and having a glimpse of peace and assurance and hope.

52:16

And then just to have it dashed.

52:19

The devil wants you to think you're done.

52:24

Why bother?

52:27

Because that moment of relief is gone.

52:29

So God clearly can't really care.

52:31

Because if He did, you'd already prayed about it and He gave you an assurance, and now it's gone.

52:38

That's the light of the devil who wants to undermine the faith of men and women who follow David's experience of walking with God through those double dips and coming back to him again and again in prayer so he can assure you that He is with you.

53:02

But as you entrust your life afresh into His hands, remember what Jesus shows us.

53:10

Those hands look like.

53:13

They are not only the sovereign and almighty hands of God.

53:18

They are not only the hands that hold the power, the glory of the majesty of the One who created or thinks they are pierced to show you the enormity of His love for you and that is meant to give you hope.

53:41

Turn back to the end of Psalm 31.

53:44

I want you to see where David gets to and all of the struggle that he has been through finishes with this wonderful hope of what happens as we trust in Him.

53:58

Verse 23 Love the Lord all his faithful people.

54:02

The Lord preserves those who are true to Him, but the proud He pays back in full.

54:07

Be strong and take heart all you who hope in the Lord.

54:16

That is why we can have hope.

54:19

We love Him because He loved us first.

54:23

We are reminded that we are to be strong and take heart because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

54:30

And we're to remember, as Jeffrey remembered, how wonderful a thing it is to know that the hands that hold us for eternity were pierced for us at Calvary.

54:47

They are the words of the theme of our next hymn in which we are going to sink.

54:52

My times are in your hand.

54:55

Why should I doubt or fear?

54:58

A father's hand will never 'cause his child a needless tear.

55:03

My times are in your hand, Jesus the crucified.

55:09

Those hands my cruel sins had pierced are now my guard and guide.

55:16

Let's stand and sing together.

55:38

None the, the, the do take a seat.

57:30

We're gonna have a time of open prayer now, so please lead us in prayers.

57:35

You feel Lord leads you?

57:37

Perhaps responding to some of those things we've heard there.

57:40

The hands that hold us for eternity were pierced at Calvary.

57:47

Jesus could trust God's loving hands, couldn't he?

57:53

And we know that God can keep us in his hands forever only through Jesus.

57:59

So please just lead us in a time of prayer reflecting on that.

58:02

Perhaps praying for those who can't be with us.

58:04

Perhaps praying for our mission partners who are seeking to share that good news of Jesus that we've been hearing of in the countries they're located in.

58:14

Pray for those who are away.

58:15

Pray for other things that are on your heart.

58:16

So please lead us as we just encourage one another by sharing in an open time of prayer.

58:29

Thank you for your great love and and favor to us.

58:34

As undeserved as it is, I just pray that you'll give us the the faith and the the sight of Geoffrey Paul that we could be content in the knowledge that we have trusted in you and we will keep this as your children and that we are to inherit your promise of everlasting life through Jesus.

59:01

Blood and worldly things can can come and and and go, but you remain forever and just for your goodness of faith and strength to to make you our anchor and to make you our our life.

59:17

Amen.

59:25

But that you are a God who wants to know what's going on in our hearts, that you want to know if we're struggling, and that you want us to bring all that before you.

59:35

We can share it with you and that we'll give it into your hands.

59:41

And then you can change it and help us to to remind us who you are and what we promised us.

59:47

That we can really trust you no matter what the circumstances are.

59:52

I feel that you're always with us.

59:54

Even if we can't really feel Lord, we do pray that you will increase our faith.

1:00:15

Think of the the man in the Gospels who responded to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:00:21

Saying, I believe, Lord, help my unbelief and pray that you will grow us in our face.

1:00:30

Thank you that the Christian life is indeed a walk of faith.

1:00:34

We begin by placing all our trust, all our hope, all our confidence, all our faith in a Savior who died for us, who was raised that he might give us life and who is risen now.

1:00:49

He might empower us to live the Christian life to the very end of our days.

1:00:56

Lord, we pray that you will increase our face day by day, week by week, month by month, until, as it were, our journeys end.

1:01:07

Thank you that as you call us so you our purpose.

1:01:13

We thank you that You have, in the words of the apostle, for prepared those good works that we might walk in, and that we are God's workmanship.

1:01:25

Thank you that each one who is a believer tonight, who sits here in this meeting, is fashioned by a loving, wise, and great God, and you will work in us that which is well pleasing in your side.

1:01:41

Make us the man and the women that we ought to be for Christ in the generation in which you

replace us, in the place and in the places that you have put us in, and help us to have that confidence in you that you will never leave us.

1:01:58

Awful say us.

1:02:00

We will not fear, because the Lord will stand by us.

1:02:06

Help us to have the faith of those three friends when faced with death by the by the Persian Emperor said that we will not bow down to your statute and our God is able to deliver us and whether he does or he does not, we will stand firm and then wonderfully that they were preserved and they were brought out of that fiery fence and those who had accused them, those who had spoken against them were consigned to their fiery fence.

1:02:50

It would help us to realize that we are held by everlasting acts.

1:02:56

You will bring us safely and remind us that these things even to the for Jesus name and for his honor sin.

1:03:12

Gracious God, we commit our loved ones to you, those who perhaps we have brought up to know you and to value your word.

1:03:20

And yes, perhaps there's a hesitation or a calling away.

1:03:25

Lord, we place them in your hands as well.

1:03:29

It is you Lord, who called them into your God Kingdom.

1:03:32

We are consent to leave them in your loving hands.

1:03:37

And Lord, please guilt to pass that peace of knowing that you are sovereign in this matter.

1:04:30

Lord God, we do thank you and praise you that you that you are all faithful, that you are all true.

1:04:37

None of us knows what will happen this very night, let alone in the week ahead, or the months ahead or the years ahead of our lives.

1:04:48

And yet we know, we know for certain that you will hold us in your hands and You will never let us go as we trust in you.

1:05:02

Lord, thank you for the reminder tonight.

1:05:06

But the reminder now is we take the bread and the wine that you have done all that is needed to die in our place, to take the punishment that we deserve so that we can be free of guilt and sin and have that hope that goes beyond this life that goes into eternity because of Jesus and through Jesus.

1:05:32

Lord, we thank you, we trust you, whatever circumstances, what lies ahead.

1:06:02

Father, thank You that You have brought us into hands that will never let us go, but every single one of us knows that we do not deserve to be there.

1:06:12

Bless you for grace, undeserved and unbounded.

1:06:18

Bless you for your willingness to give of your one and only Son, that men and women born in this world who despised and rejected you, if you say from the eternal judgement we deserved and brought into a great Kingdom of life and right and hope by that we asked that you would have just not to be like the Seymours when they first moved into their home and quickly forgot the passing of the times.

1:06:52

Would you continually remind us through this Saturn, through every occasion that you give us of the astounding grace that we have that fathers, we remember what we heard this morning.

1:07:08

We beg of you, please to be gracious to those outside of your house.

1:07:15

Father, we thank you for the honesty of your words and how we were challenged this morning to remember the eternal lostness of all who are not in those fierce hands.

1:07:33

Father, for all of our love and prayer and effort, we could not bring a single one into the Kingdom, and so we please with you tonight to bring them in.

1:07:48

Please would you show those that we know and love, who do not yet know and love You, the eternal folly of their way and things?

1:08:01

Would you say?

1:08:03

And she is the same.

1:08:30

Fathers, we come to remember all that Jesus did on the cross.

1:08:38

We pray that you'd meet with us now and that we together would be thankful.

1:08:48

We thank you that for his perfect life, we thank you for his death, those hands and feet that were pierced until he said it is finished.

1:09:02

And Father, ultimately you rose, You brought him back from the dead to sit at your right hand interceding for us now.

1:09:09

And so, Father, we approach you with thankfulness and we pray that you bless us as we remember together as your body, the church, we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

1:09:23

Amen.

1:09:31

So as we come to the Lord's Supper, we come together as the church family to give thanks together for God's atoning work at the cross for our sins through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:09:45

We meet together as a church family to share in the bread and the wine together collectively giving thanks to God for our salvation, for each other's salvation, because we are one in Christ through his sacrifice.

1:10:05

Paul says in Galatians 3 verses 26 to 28.

1:10:10

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.

1:10:17

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

1:10:22

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1:10:39

So we gather tonight as one.

1:10:41

One in Jesus's perfect life, one saved through his sacrifice, and one that can be guaranteed eternity through his resurrection.

1:10:54

And so if you know that if you're one with us, if you've repented of your sins and are trusting only in God for forgiveness, if you've been baptized according to your understanding of Scripture, and if you're in good fellowship with our church family, or if you're visiting with us, the church family you regularly attend, then please join together with us as we remember that we are one in Christ.

1:11:30

But if you can't say those things, if you haven't known that repentance, if you're not trusting in Jesus, if you've not been baptized according to your understanding, and if you're not in good fellowship here or in your own church, then please feel no embarrassment, but let the emblems pass you by.

1:11:51

If you want to talk to me or James or know someone else about these things after service, we'd love to talk further with you.

1:12:00

We're reminded this morning, those with us, that and James touched on it this evening, that taking the Lord's Supper does not save us.

1:12:09

We do not receive forgiveness tonight through this because it's been done at the cross already.

1:12:15

We remember what Jesus has done for us.

1:12:18

We remember that one sacrifice that covers all our sins.

1:12:25

We're reminded in Corinthians that when we come to this table, Paul says so then whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

1:12:39

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup.

1:12:45

For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ, eat and drink judgement on themselves.

1:12:54

This is a serious thing we do.

1:12:56

This is a solemn thing.

1:12:57

But it's a time of thanks and worship for those of us that are one in Christ Jesus.

1:13:06

Perhaps if the service could just join me at the front, please.

1:13:32

So look around.

1:13:34

We're together, brothers and sisters, one in Christ, as we come to share in these emblems.

1:13:47

Let us just take some time to reflect and to prepare personally, to share, perhaps to think through those points I've raised.

1:13:57

And in a few moments we're going to stay seated and we're going to sing a song.

1:14:01

Turn your eyes to Jesus says that's what we want to do as we come to remember what he's done for us.

1:14:06

So let's just take a few moments and then I'll give you a nod.

1:15:03

Jesus, The following is wonderful friends, and the pains all above the world strange with Him in the life of his glory and praises your eyes get under the sun, and justice and mercy and grace and the sun.

1:15:45

God gave his life for us, Jesus here we had our hearts.

1:16:05

Jesus like glory and God rise.

1:16:11

He told you he hold.

1:16:14

You must take around my truth.

1:16:18

Oh Jesus.

1:16:43

The the, the, the Father God.

1:18:29

We just do what we've just sung.

1:18:33

Turn our eyes to Jesus, our one and only Saviour, our Father God.

1:18:40

We worship you and adore you for what He has done for us, making us right in Your sight, making us pure and blameless in your sight through His perfect life, covering and burying our sins, through His death on the cross, securing eternity for us in your presence to praise and worship You, Father God.

1:19:10

We turn our eyes to Jesus as we come to remember what He did for us to make US1 as the church family in Him.

1:19:23

Before you, Father, bless us, encourage us.

1:19:27

We give you thanks for the bread.

1:19:29

We thi give you thanks for the wine.

1:19:32

May we be thankful for what you've done for us.

1:19:35

May we be thankful for what you've done for each of us as a church gathered as a church family together.

1:19:44

So Father, bless us, we give you praise and we thank you in Jesus name, Amen.

1:19:54

Paul says, For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you.

1:19:58

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread and when giving thanks he broke it and said, this is my body which is for you.

1:20:08

Do this in remembrance of me.

1:20:11

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying.

1:20:15

This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

1:20:19

Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.

1:20:25

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1:20:33

Jesus broke the bread and gave thanks.

1:20:41

We're going to serve the bread, and please take the bread as you receive it, giving God thanks for what he's done for you and for one another.

1:20:49

And then after that, we'll serve the wine, but please hold on to the wine and then we will drink together because we are one in Christ.

1:20:56

Thank you None the, the, the, the.

1:25:32

Let's drink together because we are all one in Christ.

1:26:09

To close, let's stand and sing the benediction together to one another.

1:26:33

The It's notorious, right from the tabs to the whites of them we declare the name of the God one slaying the price.

1:27:06

We turn on the game of peace.

1:27:18

This is His heart to understand things and His grace which makes us want to be all.

1:27:29

And his friendship of His communion brings us all his very time in God, and to Him we praise for his Lord.