

Morning Service

Hope in the uncertainties of life
Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20
Mr Alex Hanna

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most holy, most glorious,
the Ancient of days,
almighty, victorious,
Your great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
You rule us in might;
Your justice like mountains
high soaring above
Your clouds, which are fountains
of goodness and love.**

**To all, life You give, Lord,
to both great and small,
in all life You live, Lord,
the true life of all:
we blossom and flourish,
uncertain and frail;
we wither and perish, but You never fail.**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light;
Your angels adore You,
all veiling their sight;
but of all Your rich graces, Lord,
this grace impart,
take the veil from our faces,
the veil from our heart.**

**Our praise we would render,
O Father, to You
whom only the splendour
of light hides from view;
and so let Your glory, Almighty, impart,
through Christ in the story,
Your Christ to the heart.**

Walter C Smith

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Prayer

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**But all this I laid to heart,
examining it all, how the
righteous and the wise and
their deeds are in the hand of
God. Whether it is love or
hate, man does not know;
both are before him.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

² It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴ But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and for ever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy,
and drink your wine with a
merry heart, for God has
already approved what you
do.**

**⁸ Let your garments be always
white. Let not oil be lacking on
your head.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

⁹ Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹¹ Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹² For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

¹³ I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹⁴ There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siege works against it. ¹⁵ But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹⁶ But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

¹⁷ The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. ¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**Dead flies make the
perfumer's ointment give off a
stench;**

**so a little folly outweighs
wisdom and honour.**

**² A wise man's heart inclines
him to the right,
but a fool's heart to the left.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**³ Even when the fool walks on
the road, he lacks sense,
and he says to everyone
that he is a fool.**

**⁴ If the anger of the ruler rises
against you, do not leave
your place,
for calmness will lay great
offences to rest.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

⁵ There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler: ⁶ folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place. ⁷ I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**⁸ He who digs a pit will fall into
it,
and a serpent will bite him
who breaks through a wall.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

⁹ He who quarries stones is hurt by them,

and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

¹⁰ If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed.

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**¹¹ If the serpent bites before it
is charmed,
there is no advantage to
the charmer.**

**¹² The words of a wise man's
mouth win him favour,
but the lips of a fool
consume him.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**¹³ The beginning of the words
of his mouth is foolishness,
and the end of his talk is
evil madness.**

**¹⁴ A fool multiplies words,
though no man knows what
is to be,
and who can tell him what
will be after him?**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

¹⁵ The toil of a fool wearies him,

for he does not know the way to the city.

¹⁶ Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,

and your princes feast in the morning!

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**17 Happy are you, O land,
when your king is the son of
the nobility,**

**and your princes feast at
the proper time,
for strength, and not
for drunkenness!**

**18 Through sloth the roof sinks
in,**

**and through indolence the
house leaks.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

**19 Bread is made for laughter,
and wine gladdens life,
and money answers
everything.**

Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 10:20

²⁰ Even in your thoughts, do
not curse the king,
nor in your bedroom curse
the rich,
for a bird of the air will carry
your voice,
or some winged creature
tell the matter.

Children's Talk

**Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and He holds us in His hands.**

**Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and He holds us in His hands.**

**He's higher than a skyscraper
and He's deeper than a submarine.**

**He's wider than the universe
and beyond my wildest dreams.**

**And He's known me
and He's loved me
since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
of God's amazing plan.**

**Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and He holds us in His hands.**

**Our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God,
our God is a great big God
and He holds us in His hands.**

Jo and Nigel Hemming

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Prayer

**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 power 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, 'til Your church is built
as You fill the earth with Your glory.**

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Prayer

MORNING SERVICE



ECCELESIASTES

9:1 - 10:20

The Meaning of Life

HOPE IN THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE

SUMMER "26

Prayer

**Facing a task unfinished,
that drives us to our knees,
a need that, undiminished,
rebukes our slothful ease.**

**We who rejoice to know Thee,
renew before Thy throne
the solemn pledge we owe Thee,
to go and make Thee known.**

**Where other lords beside Thee
hold their unhindered sway,
where forces that defied Thee
defy Thee still today.**

**With none to heed their crying
for life, and love, and light,
unnumbered souls are dying,
and pass into the night.**

**We go to all the world,
with kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save
but Jesus Christ the Lord.**

**We bear the torch, that flaming,
fell from the hands of those
who gave their lives, proclaiming
that Jesus died and rose.
Ours is the same commission,
the same glad message ours,
fired by the same ambition,
to Thee we yield our powers.**

**We go to all the world,
with kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save
but Jesus Christ the Lord.**

**○ Father who sustained them,
○ Spirit who inspired,
Saviour, whose love constrained them
to toil with zeal untired,
from cowardice defend us,
from lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us,
to labour for Thy sake.**

**We go to all the world,
His kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save
but Jesus Christ the Lord.**

**We go to all the world,
His kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save
but Jesus Christ the Lord.**

Ed Cash, Fionán De Barra, Frank Houghton, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Samuel Wesley

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**

Evening Service

Living in the light, waiting for the Day
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Mr Alex Hanna

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore:
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when He had purged our stains
He took His seat above:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules both earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**He sits at God's right hand,
till all His foes submit
and bow to His command
and fall beneath His feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:
rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the Judge shall come
and take His servants up
to their eternal home:
we soon shall hear the archangel's voice:
God's trumpet-call shall sound – Rejoice!**

Charles Wesley 1707-88

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Prayer

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want,
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.**

And I will trust in You alone.

**And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

**He guides my ways in righteousness,
and He anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.**

And I will trust in You alone.

**And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

**And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.**

**And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.**

Stuart Townend

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1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

**³ While people are saying,
“There is peace and security”,
then sudden destruction will
come upon them as labour
pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and they will not
escape. ⁴ But you are not in
darkness, brothers, for that
day to surprise you like a
thief.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

**Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father
and I Thy true heir:
Thou in me dwelling
and I in Thy care.**

**Be Thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be Thou my armour
and be Thou my might:
Thou my soul's shelter
and Thou my high tower;
raise Thou me heav'nward,
O Power of my power.**

**Riches I heed not,
nor all the world's praise;
Thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
Thou, and Thou only,
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art!**

High King of heaven,
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joys to me,
O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O ruler of all.

Ancient Irish, tr. Mary Byrne

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Evening Service



1 Thessalonians

FAITHFUL

5:1-11 Living in the light, waiting for the Day



Summer '26

Prayer

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied-
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave He rose again.**

**And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

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**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.
Amen.**