

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

Date: 24 December 2023
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: On that day
Title: We will keep on singing
Passage: Revelation 5:9-13

- I believe in Christ, risen from the dead
He now reigns victorious, His kingdom knows no end
Through His resurrection, death has lost its hold
I know on that final day, I'll rise as Jesus rose
- On that day, we will see You
Shining brighter than the sun
On that day, we will know You
As we lift our voice as one
'Til that day, we will praise You
For Your never-ending grace
And we will keep on singing on that glorious day. ////
- Good to be with you today on the fourth Sunday in Advent...
and of course *because* today is also Christmas Eve.... We are
in danger of losing the concept of Advent – looking to Jesus'
return - due to Christmas being so **close**!

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

- So I'm glad you're taking this time out to continue our **Advent** focus.... And we'll just **push back** on **Christmas** for a **few more hours yet!! //**
 - So we've been enjoying this great song by CityAlight – called **“On that Day”** - referring of course to that **great** day of Jesus' **return**...
 - And here are the lines we've picked up on throughout Advent.... The lyrics have recalled – that **ON THAT DAY** we will
 - **Rise** as Jesus rose;
 - We will **see you**
 - We will **know you //**
 - And then the lyrics say
 - **Until** that **day** – that is – **today** and every day **until** Jesus' **returns**... we will **praise** you for your **never-ending grace**;
AND:
 - We'll **keep on singing** on that **glorious day!**
-
- Do you **enjoy** singing and praising **God??**
 - I **hope** so – because in **eternity** – you'll be doing a **lot** of it!!

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

- It's one of the repeated **descriptions** in the Psalms – the hymn book of the Bible – and in the **last book** of the Bible, which regularly describes how people will be gathering around **Jesus the lamb of God** and singing his **praises**.
- Let me share a couple of these verses with you
- **Psalm 9:2** – I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High
- Or **Psalm 47:6-7** - Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.
- **Psalm 95** Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song
- Or **96** - Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day
- Or **145** - I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for **ever and ever**.
- Or in the Book of the Revelation:
- **5:10** And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain,

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

and with your blood, you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation

- **Or 7:10** – where this great multitude no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language.... Cried out in a loud voice – Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.
- **Or ch 19** – various verses - Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God ... Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!' ... 'Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
- Are you getting the idea that praising God is **central** to our relationship with him – both **now** and into the **future**!?
- And that is because when you know God's character and how he loves us and what he's done for us in the Lord Jesus... the only – the natural – response – is to praise him!
- So here's where we are heading today! Very simply:
 1. **Something to sing about**
 2. **Someone to sing to**

1. **Something to sing about**

- I received a survey from the NRMA this week because I renewed a car insurance policy.... The first question was

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

predictably – “how likely on scale of 1 to 10 are you to recommend NRMA to someone else?”

- Now, I always rate that question as the **lowest** possible... and when they ask why, I give the **same answer** – because I just don’t go around **recommending** things to **people!**
- I would have to be **really taken** – **really impressed** – really **excited** by something – and really **convinced** it was going to change someone’s **life** – for me to sing the **praises** of some **product** or **service...**
- But friends – when it comes to **God** and all we have from him in the gift of His Son and the promise of a renewed future and a renewed **me**, I want to **tell the world...**
- I want to **preach** it from every **pulpit**
- I want to preach here to **video** and share it on social **media...**
- ...for **friends** – in our great and glorious God, we have something to **sing about...!!**
- in those quotes from the Psalms – we are called to sing the praises of the God whose **reign** is **eternal**, because he’s the great **King** of all the **earth...**
- In the songs of the Book of **Revelation**, we are urged to sing the praises of **Jesus** who is worthy because he has won our **salvation** through **Jesus** – the **Lamb of God** who has taken

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

away the **sins** of the **world!**

- **Remember?** '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" – ch 5
- Yes – something to **sing** about – the God who **loves** us through and through – who has acted to **save** us through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ... through whose death and resurrection we are **welcomed** into his **eternal presence!** ///
- and **secondly**; we

2. Someone to sing to

- our praise isn't just some distant religious **act** or **ritual** or **chant** or mantra.... Given out into **space**...
- this is **personal**
- it's **real**
- it's **intimate**
- we sing to our God who has run out to **welcome** us **home** and **embrace** us
- we praise the one who loved the **world** – loved **US** – so much he has given his **Son**

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

- we sing to our great God who as we'll see in our **Lenten studies** next year – I really hope you'll make use of them – our great God who is **compassionate** and **gracious**, slow to **anger**, abounding in **love and faithfulness, forgiving** and **just!!**
- we sing to the one who as we heard last week – **knows** us **through** and **through** - and yet **loves us** any way!
- We sing to **the mighty** and **majestic** and **very great God** who we are privileged to call "**Father**"! //
- Yes – something to sing **ABOUT** – our **salvation** – our **forgiveness** – won for us by **Jesus** – and **eternity** in his **presence** by his **grace....**
- And someone to sing **TO** – our **compassionate, gracious, faithful, forgiving... good God** and **heavenly Father** and Jesus his Son who has taken away our **sin!**

Let me close

On that day, we will **see** You
Shining brighter than the sun
On that day, we will **know** You
As we lift our voice as one
'Til that day, we will **praise** You
For Your **never-ending grace**
And we will **keep on singing** on that **glorious day.**

Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God

- Yes on that day – we will **rise** – we will **see Jesus** – we will know **God...**
- And **until** that day – we will praise **you!**
- No matter the challenges you're facing in life right **now** – and many are **SO significant** – we **can** and **should** and **must** keep **praising God** – for his **love and faithfulness** – for the **gift** of His **Son** and the **promise** of a **future...! //**
- **Till** that day we will **praise you....**
- And **then... then...** we'll just **keep on singing** – on that **glorious** day – and our praises will **keep going** – **unabated** – **uninterrupted** – for all **eternity...! ///**
- Well – this is the **last** of our **Advent series...** I hope and pray you've captured a sense of the **significance** of Advent – looking **forward to eternity** – the **return on Jesus** – the renewal of all things – including our very **selves...**
- We will **rise** as Jesus **rose**
- We will **see** Jesus face to **face**
- We will **know** him even as we are fully **known**
- **Till** that day – we will **praise** him for his **never-ending grace** – and then – we'll **keep on singing** on that **glorious day.**
- Let's **end** the series by enjoying the whole song which

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

inspired the series..... {PLAY SONG}
