we'll praise Him for all that is past

and trust Him for all that's to come.

Joseph Hart (1712-68) CCLI 150801

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Hymn 446 – Lord, Thy word abideth.**

and our footsteps guideth;

who its truth believeth light and joy receiveth.

Who can tell the pleasure, who recount the treasure,

by Thy word imparted to the simple-hearted?

When the storms are o'er us, and dark clouds before us,

then its light directeth, and our way protecteth.

When our foes are near us, then Thy word doth cheer us,

word of consolation, message of salvation.

Word of mercy, giving succour to the living;

word of life, supplying comfort to the dying.

O that we discerning its most holy learning,

Lord, may love and fear Thee, evermore be near Thee!

Henry Williams Baker (l821-77) CCLI 150801

**Blessing.**

‘Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power bot now and ever.

Amen.

**Sunday 11th October 2020 - Robin**

**Call to worship** – Psalm 102:25-27

**Hymn 528 - O worship the King**, all-glorious above;

O gratefully sing His power and His love;

our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,

pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,

whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;

His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form;

and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,

Almighty, Thy power hath founded of old:

hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,

and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?

It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;

it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,

and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,

in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;

Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,

our maker, defender, Redeemer, and friend!

O Lord of all might, how boundless Thy love!

while angels delight to hymn Thee above,

the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,

with true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

ROBERT GRANT (1779-1838)\* based on Psalm 104 CCLI 150801

**Prayer**

We come this morning, Father, into your house to worship and magnify your great Name. In a troubled world, we find peace in knowing you. In a world rushing hither and thither we pause to remember your great love for us, and we are persuaded that you have neither left us nor forsaken us. We remember your great love for us as evidenced in this bread and wine and that you have called us sons of God. How great is your love and care we could do none other than to come and praise your great name. move among us by your Spirit this morning, speak to each of us. Draw us to yourself and in our worship be glorified in Jesus name.

**Amen.**

**Lord’s prayer –** (sung MP 661)

**Notices and Mission Prayer**

**Dedication of Offering**

**Bible Reading** – Acts 17:16-31 - Paul in Athens

**Hymn 251 – How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

in a believer's ear

it soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,

and drives away his fear.

**א**  בְּרֵאשִׁית, בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים, אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ.

There are just 7 words in the Hebrew.. the centre word is ‘et.’ an aleph and a tav.. the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

It is called by the Rabbis; the word of creation and plays no part in the meaning of the sentence. The New Testament tells us that Christ is the Alpha and Omega.. the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.. and here He is the very first verse of the Bible.

‘All things were created by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made’..

And as many as received Him personal

To them gave He power powerful

To become the sons parental

Of God precise

And so we come full circle:

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

**Hymn 244 – How good is the God we adore**

Our faithful, unchangeable friend:

His love is as great as His power

and knows neither measure nor end.

For Christ is the First and the Last;

His Spirit will guide us safe home:

creation account of the beginning of the universe, of life, and of man.”

I could comfortably preach/teach on this theme all day.. suffice just a few illustrations:-

1. The big bang theory:- This had been likened to a tornado passing through a scrapyard and leaving behind a Boeing 747 complete and ready to fly! An explosion only destroys.. never creates.
2. Astronomers tell us that the moon is moving away from the earth- just a small amount every year.. (nowadays measurable to feet) 8-10,000 years has not made a lot of difference but millions of years, and the moon would now be out of sight!
3. The eye caused Darwin great problems- in the womb hundreds of nerve endings make their way from the eye towards the brain.. and hundreds more from the brain toward the eye – each will join with its opposite number.. just by chance?? Darwin, (Origin of Species 1859 pages

186-192) concludes:- “to suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus, for admitting different amounts of light and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess absurd in the highest degree.”

I could go on, but I will leave you with just one more:-

Genesis 1:1

‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’

It makes the wounded Spirit whole,

and calms the troubled breast;

'tis manna to the hungry soul,

and to the weary rest.

Dear Name! the rock on which I build,

my shield and hiding-place,

my never-failing treasury, filled

with boundless stores of grace:

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,

my Prophet, Priest, and King,

my Lord, my life, my way, my end,

accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,

and cold my warmest thought;

but when I see thee as thou art,

I'll praise thee as I ought.

Till then I would thy love proclaim

with every fleeting breath;

and may the music of thy Name

refresh my soul in death.

John Newton (1725-1807) altd. CCLI 150801

**Communion**

Gracious Father, your might is beyond measure,

your wisdom, beyond knowledge,

your love beyond telling,

you have put eternity into our hearts and made us hunger and thirst after you.

Satisfy the longings you have implanted that we may find you in life and find life in you.

1 Corinthians 12:23-28

Draw near with faith … receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you and His blood, which was shed for you.

We break the bread; take, eat this is the body of Christ broken for you.

We take the cup; this cup is the new covenant sealed by Christ’s blood…

Drink you all of it, in remembrance of Him for as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup you show the Lord’s death till he comes.

Amen, even so come Lord Jesus.

**The Apostles Creed - Number 1 part C**

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

**Maker of heaven and earth.**”

Here we come to the Precise God I believe in..

There were gods a-plenty on Mars hill: Acts 17:22-24

Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars Hill, and said, “Ye man of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious, for as I passed by, and beheld your devotions I found an altar with the inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD, whom you ignorantly worship, him I declare unto you, God that made the world and all things therein, seeing He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands..”

I think the people of Athens were hedging their bets in case they left one out.

John uses the same criterion as Paul :- “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.. the same was in the beginning with God, all things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.. and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.. John 1.

This creator God is the God we believe in and love and serve. Evolution is a godless lie. It is only accepted because the alternative is creation.. and creation involves a Creator. To acknowledge God brings with it restrictions and accountability – and men prefer to live without either..

‘The fool has said in his heart “there is no god”

Some years ago I had the privilege to attend a lecture by Prof. Andy McIntosh; DSc. FIMA. C Math. C.Eng. etc. professor of thermodynamics and combustion theory at Leeds Uni. And he believes and preaches in a God creator- as do many thousands of other scientists. To say that “all scientists believe in evolution” is just not true. John Moore, Prof. of Natural Science at Michigan State University.. “Now I believe in Jesus Christ as the creator of all things in contrast to the totally unscientific idea of grand scale evolution and spontaneous generation of life. All known scientific data fit into the special