**Beacon Community Church – Wibsey**

**Sunday 29th Nov 2020**

Welcome to our morning service on this the last Sunday of Lockdown in 2020 – May not be the end but we thank God, vaccinations are being found to bring the light at the end of this tunnel into clear sight, but hasn’t it been such a twisting tunnel, and we trust the Light is Gods light,

Jesus shining brightly in these dark days. Meeting together as we are allowed to do so over Christmas could be a blessing but also a curse, so lets all keep safe and well, and look forward to the time when we know it will be safe, for us all to meet up.

**Prayer -**

**Lets play a hymn – My hope is built on nothing less** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anazDFHLHGk**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anazDFHLHGk)

Today is the first Sunday of Advent

**The first candle we light is the “Prophets” candle and represents “Hope”**

And as we light our first candle at home or in church – we are reminded of the hope we have of the vaccinations that provide light at the end of the tunnel regarding Covid 19. The hope is that by Spring or early Summer 2021 we should see an end to the pandemic.

As Christians we have a greater Hope not just now but for eternity!

The hymn writer – Puts it so simply **My hope is built on Christ the solid Rock**

**On Christ the Solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.**

**Let’s read something of the Hope we have in God from Isaiah 43: 1-3 and 11 – 13**

But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says,  
“Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.  
**2**When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty,  
    you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up;  
    the flames will not consume you.  
**3**For I am the Lord, your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

11-13 I, yes I, am the Lord, and there is no other Saviour.  
**12**First I predicted your rescue, then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world.  
No foreign god has ever done this. You are witnesses that I am the only God,” says the Lord.  
**13**“From eternity to eternity I am God. No one can snatch anyone out of my hand. No one can undo what I have done.”

**Our home is planned – Procured – Prepared and will be performed for Gods Glory.**

**Our Hope is planned** – Vs 12 First I predicted your rescue, then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world – Verse 1 “Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

Our Hope is procured – When the prophets foretold of the Son of God even back as far Abraham the promised Child “Jesus Christ”

**Our Hope is procured – John 1:10-14**

**10**He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. **11**He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **12**But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. **13**They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. **14**So the Word became human[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26025d)] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26025e)] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

Many came to Jesus to accuse, ridicule and scorn Him, but the name of Jesus in the ear of the believer is the most beautiful of all names, for it is through our union with the Lord Jesus that we have been brought back into sweet communion with the living God, for there is no other name in heaven or on earth that has the power to seek and to save that which was lost.

Trusting in the name of Jesus is accepting Him as the incarnate Son of God, Who came to earth to be our substitute for sin. It is believing that Christ's death, burial, and Resurrection procured our salvation. It is trusting that His atoning sacrifice paid the price for our sin, and that by faith we are born again into the family of God.

**Our Hope is Prepared – John 14:1-7**

**14**“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. **2**There is more than enough room in my Father’s home.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26636a)] If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26636b)] **3**When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. **4**And you know the way to where I am going.”

**5**“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

**6**Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. **7**If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NLT#fen-NLT-26641c)] From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”

**Our Hope is already being performed – Revelation 1**

**4**This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+1+&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30663c)]

Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+1+&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30663d)] before his throne; **5**and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world.

All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. **6**He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

**7**Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven.  And everyone will see him even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him Yes! Amen!

**8**“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,”[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+1+&version=NLT#fen-NLT-30667e)] says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

**Hope prophesied born of a virgin, that very first Christmas, born in a animals feeding trough, lived a complete life of service for others until He was crucified on someone else’s cross, for someone else’s sin, buried in someone else’s tomb – all of this was done for us to gain the Hope prophesied planned procured, prepared and is being performed by Christ our Lord and Saviour.**

**Is ours today and always in Christ Jesus – AMEN**

**Hymn – Ancient Words – Robin Mark -** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue6a3LERJW8**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue6a3LERJW8)

**Closing Prayer**

**Notices**

**Sunday 6th Dec 10:45am Mary Byrne (Pastor Paul Communion)**

**\*Sunday 13th Dec 10:45am Carol service “Christmas as before”**

**\*Sunday 2oth Dec 6pm Carol service “Christmas as before”**

**\*Christmas day (25th Dec) 10:30am**

**\*Sunday 27th Dec 10:45am Carol service “Christmas as before”**

**\*Carol service “Christmas as before” and Christmas day will be live on Zoom only because of the limitation of Ising and Facebook not allowing us to use play all types of music.**

**Zoom reference is as follows -** Meeting ID and Passcode - Meeting ID: 805 199 3903 - Passcode: 182992

Facebook will be live streamed on the 6th

**Please see attached for a thought in your street on Thursdays running up to Christmas**

**Be blessed as you come closer and embrace the Hope God gives us and keep safe and well during these crazy days.**

**If you would like to contribute funds to support us compiling 100 food boxes to distribute in our locality to church members who are isolated and families in need in the local community. Please speak to either Pastor Paul or Lynne Oldroyd**

**Yours in Christ Pastor Paul**