

**ABBAY INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, READING**

**BMS SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**10.30 AM 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

**Richard Kingston Leading & Toby & Pippa Vokuhl Speaking**

[www.abbeybaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.abbeybaptistchurch.org.uk).

Find us on Facebook @ Abbey Baptist Church, Reading



**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence

**to offer him praise and thanksgiving,**

**to hear and receive his holy word,**

**to bring before him the needs of the world,**

**to ask his forgiveness of our sins**

**And to seek his grace,**

that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

**HYMN BPW 31:**

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord!*

*Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

He is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth,

Jesus has died and has risen.

We have been crucified with Christ,

Now we shall live forever.

God has proclaimed the just reward,

Life for all men, alleluia!

Come let us praise the living God,

Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

DONALD FISHEL © 1973 THE WORD OF GOD MUSIC/ADM BY COPYCARE

**A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION**

Loving God, this is the day you have made and we thank you for it. We thank you for all the good things which surround us - our homes, our families, our friends, our church, the

vastness of the universe, the beauty of the natural world, the sights and sounds of daily life.

For all you have given, **we praise and worship you.**

We thank you for the love of Christ encircling us, his spirit guiding us, and your eternal purpose constantly inspiring us.

For all you have given, **we praise and worship you.**

Loving God, forgive us that sometimes we have lost sight of your great love, that we have been forgetful of you, we have failed to count our blessings or appreciate how fortunate we are.

We know we have failed you in much and not always lived as your people.

**For all our faults, forgive us, O Lord.**

Have mercy on us, cleanse us from all our weaknesses, pardon our sins, renew our faith and restore us to your side, and so with your help may be enabled to live more faithfully as your people,

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** *You are invited to pray in your own heart language*

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **FAMILY TIME**

*(An offering will be taken during the next hymn, and then the children will leave us for their own groups)*

#### **HYMN BP&W 586:**

We've a story to tell to the nations,  
That shall turn their hearts to the right;  
A story of truth and goodness,  
A story of peace and light:

*For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright,  
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,  
The kingdom of love and light.*

We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord;  
A song that shall conquer evil,  
And shatter the spear and sword:

We've a message to give to the nations,

That God who is reigning above  
Has sent us his Son to save us,  
And show us that God is love:

We've a Saviour to show to the nations,  
Who the path of sorrow has trod,  
That all of the world's great peoples  
Might come to the truth of God.

COLIN STERNE (1862-1926)

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**BIBLE READING 1:** Genesis 28:10-17

**BIBLE READING 2:** Matthew 27:47-54

### **HYMN BP&W 582:**

Tell all the world of Jesus,  
Our Saviour, Lord and King;  
And let the whole creation  
Of his salvation sing:  
Proclaim his glorious greatness  
In nature and in grace;  
Creator and Redeemer,  
The Lord of time and space.

Tell all the world of Jesus,  
That everyone may find  
The joy of his forgiveness –  
True peace of heart and mind:  
Proclaim his perfect goodness,  
His deep, unfailing care;  
His love so rich in mercy,  
A love beyond compare.

Tell all the world of Jesus,  
That everyone may know  
Of his almighty triumph  
Defeating every foe:  
Proclaim his coming glory,  
When sin is overthrown,  
And he shall reign in splendour –  
The King upon his throne!

JAMES E. SEDDON (1915-83)

### **TALK FROM THE VOKUHL FAMILY**

- Pippa and Toby Vokuhl have been working in Nepal since January 2018 with the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS World Mission). Pippa is from the UK, Toby is from Germany. Their home church is Headington Baptist Church in Oxford

- They have 3 children, Jakey (16), Ella (14) and Millie (10)
- They have been seconded by BMS to a local Nepali Christian development agency called the International Nepal Fellowship (INF).
- Toby is a Construction Manager and has been working on infrastructure for INF hospitals, which has including a chapel building, a new Leprosy ward and an extension to Physiotherapy services. He has also been involved in planning for future hospital infrastructure. He provided high quality buildings for some of the most marginalised people in Nepal.
- Pippa is a Physiotherapist by background but doesn't have a work visa to work clinically in Nepal but has been involved in disability ministry. Most people with disabilities in Nepal have no access to medical care, therapy, or education, and are often isolated from their communities because of the Hindu belief in bad 'karma' (something you did in a past life affecting your circumstances in your present life). Disability ministry aims to show people that Jesus loves them and has a good plan for their lives.
- Their 3 children go to school in Kathmandu where they live.
- As part of a global strategy review BMS recently ended its partnership with INF, so Pippa and Toby have come to the end of service with them. However, they felt the Lord calling them to continue to serve Him in Nepal. When they return to Nepal they will go back with a new Christian mission agency, Interserve.
- They will be seconded to a new Christian Nepali partner agency, who ministers to children and young people who have come out of backgrounds of human trafficking. Thousands of young Nepalis are trafficked each year, many ending up in bonded labour, and brothels in India. The agency provides family-type safe houses, trauma counselling and medical care, a school and a vocational training centre for these young people.
- The buildings for the homes, school and vocational training centre are currently rented. However, this means frequent changes of location because they are moved on by the landlords. For example, the landlord of the school has just put up the rent 400%. This means more instability for already traumatised children. The agency has therefore teamed up with a Canadian Christian anti human trafficking agency which is funding the construction of their own permanent homes, a school and vocational training centre. Toby now has 6.5 years of experience of managing construction in Nepal and will project manage this construction. The buildings will provide a wonderful space for the children to recover from their trauma, receive an education for their future, and learn about God's love for them.
- Pippa will continue with disability ministry.
- Please do pray for them as they support this ministry that shows God's love and healing to these vulnerable and traumatised young people. Do sign up to their prayer letters (in English). There is a sign-up sheet on the table with literature – please write your name and email address.

## TIME OF RESPONSE

### HYMN BP&W 583:

We are called to be God's people  
 Showing by our lives his grace,  
 One in heart and one in spirit,  
 Sign of hope for every race.  
 Let us show how he has changed us,  
 And remade us as his own;

Let us share our life together  
As we shall around his throne.

We are called to be God's servants,  
Working in his world today;  
Taking his own task upon us,  
All his sacred words obey.  
Let us rise, then, to his summons,  
Dedicate to him our all,  
That we may be faithful servants,  
Quick to answer now his call.

We are called to be God's prophets,  
Speaking for the truth and right;  
Standing firm for godly justice,  
Bringing evil into light.  
Let us seek the courage needed,  
Our high calling to fulfil,  
That mankind may know God's blessing  
In the doing of his will.

THOMAS A. JACKSON (b.1931)

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** John Chilvers

Father God, we come to you with our prayers for the Vokuhl Family.

Today we have been focussing on the work of BMS World Mission and we thank you that the Vokuhl Family are here with us today to tell us about what they have been doing in Nepal. They have spent the last five weeks visiting churches around the country and today is their last Sunday before they return to Nepal. We thank you Lord that you have called them to new opportunities in Kathmandu in partnership with Interserve GBI.

We ask for your blessing on Pippa, Toby, Jakey, Ella and Millie in their continuing witness to the people of Nepal. **Amen.**

Father God, we come to you with our prayers for the President of the United States. Joe Biden's decision not to stand for a second term has changed the landscape for the campaign to elect the next President in November. Whoever wins the White House will affect us all and we pray that the American people will make the right choice. **Amen.**

Father God, we come to you with our prayers for our new Government. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet have difficult decisions to make, so we pray that they will be given wisdom. Now that they have the power to govern, may they use that power to serve. **Amen.**

Father God, we come to you with our prayers for this church. We thank you that we are growing in numbers, but we also ask that we continue to grow spiritually. Deepen our faith, Lord, and may we have courage in sharing Jesus with our friends and families. May our lives reflect the character of Jesus in all that we do. Give our church leaders insight as they meet next Wednesday to pray for discernment and vision in preparation for our Anniversary Weekend. May all of us who are coming next Saturday be prepared to be open to what the Spirit is saying to the church, to be guided in the way forward.

These things we ask, in the Name of Jesus. **Amen.**

#### **HYMN BP&W 128:**

Now thank we all our God,  
With hearts and hands and voices;  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom His world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms,  
Has blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God  
Through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts  
And blessed peace to cheer us;  
And keep us in His grace,  
And guide us when perplexed,  
And bring us in his love  
Through this world to the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
The Father now be given,  
The Son, and Him who reigns  
With them in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God,  
Whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be ever more.

MARTIN RINKART (1586-1649) TR. CATHERINE WINKWORTH (1827-78) ALTD.

**THE BLESSING:**

May the grace of God thrill our hearts, the mercy of God transform our minds, the peace of God flood our souls, and the love of God flow through our lives, to the honour of his name.

**THE GRACE:**

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

**Dates for your Diary:**

**Special Church Anniversary weekend – NEXT WEEKEND – please sign up on the list at the back of the church or Abbey Baptist WhatsApp Group**

- **Church Vision Day 3<sup>rd</sup> August**
- **Anniversary Service 4<sup>th</sup> August followed by a Church Lunch**

If you would like to contribute financially to Abbey International Baptist Church electronically, please use the card reader at the back of the church or scan the following QR code below to pay:

**QR Code for Offering:**

