

**MAY THE LORD BE WITH YOU!**

LET'S PRAY:

Lord God, join us now as we gather to share your word and to uplift one another through worship. May our thoughts and words be acceptable, our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus we pray.

Amen.

HYMN 170: AHB by Caroline Noel 1817—1877

1. At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him, King of Glory now:  
'tis the Father's pleasure, we should call Him Lord,  
who from the beginning, was the mighty word.
2. Humbled for a season, to receive a name,  
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came,  
faithfully he bore it, spotless to the last  
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.
3. Name Him, brothers, name him, with love as strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath:  
he is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.
4. In your hearts enthrone him,  
there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your Captain, in temptation's hour,  
let his will enfold you, in its light and power.
5. Brothers, this Lord Jesus, shall return again  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train:  
for all wreaths of empire, meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him, King of Glory now.

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BIBLE READINGS AND MESSAGE:

**JOB 1:**

*In the land of Uz there was a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright: he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.*

Job is a well to do land owner with great flocks/herds of animals, and a large family. A God fearing man of upright character.

Job lives in the land of Uz, according to the Dead Sea scrolls that is possibly east of the Euphrates, or Syria, or Jordan.

Job had “it all” as the world would say.

In a conversation between God and Satan, God makes reference to Job as an example of a God fearing and upright man “there is no one on earth like him”.

Satan’s reply is – sure he’s good because you have given him everything—take it all away and see how he fares- “surely he will curse you to your face”.

We are not sure just how well prepared Job was for what was about to befall him—loss of children, flocks and health. What we do know is that Job remained faithful to God throughout his ordeal and steadfastly refused to abandon his faith in God.

Even Job’s friends abandon him and accuse him of being proud, so God was punishing him in order to humble him. After much suffering, and with nothing left, only God remained, and Job’s faith was purified. God restored Job. Job’s lifelong faith had prepared him for the experience. Job also had a “messianic” vision 19:25: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.”

### **MATTHEW 25: 1-13 The parable of the ten virgins:**

*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

*At midnight the cry rang out: Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!*

*Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps [an ancient world oil lamp was a bit like a squashed tea pot, but made of clay, with the wick protruding from the “spout”-- it could be trimmed by adjusting the length of the wick coming out of the spout- you can still buy this style of lamp on Google] – the foolish ones said to the wise “Give us some of your oil, our lamps are going out”.*

*“No”, they replied, “there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves”.*

*But while they were on their way to buy oil , the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.*

*Later the others also came. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the door for us!” But he replied, “Truly I tell you I don’t know you.”*

*Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

Many faith communities try to name the exact timing of Christ’s return. I can recall back in 1976(?) when a large number of people gathered at Glenelg beach awaiting the arrival of a “vehicle” which was, as I recall to speed them away to another world. Nothing happened of course. Jesus made it abundantly clear that only the father knows the time of his return. Matt 24:36. But clearly Jesus’ warning is that we must be prepared—

## Be Prepared

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that's a personal responsibility clearly stated in the parable. There are said to be about 1,800 references to the second coming in the bible, 318 of them in the New testament. Mark 13:32 is another *"But about that day or hour, no one knows not even the angels in heaven, nor the son, but only the father. Be on guard ! be alert! you do not know when that time will come ..... Therefore keep watch ..... If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you I say to everyone. WATCH!"* The words of the parable are clear about the end time. Stay aware, stay faithful (Job) and be prepared.

### PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

Lord our thoughts now turn to Gabon where there is upheaval and desperate need for stable government.

The people are poor and hungry and your people suffer greatly. Lord we ask for your help to that place—may your peace prevail, and may your people know of your presence and be helped through Barnabas Aid and other sources of assistance. Bless them father, in your Son's name.

Amen



### Hymn: AHB 65 by Reginald Heber 1783--1826

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty, early in the morning our song shall rise to thee; holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, God everlasting through eternity.
3. Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see, only thou are holy, there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty, all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea; holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blesse Trinity.

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### Blessing:

May the Lord bless you and keep you , Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

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