

Call to Worship:

" No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart has imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

Prayer of Invocation:

Heavenly Father, thank you for the Holy Spirit, our teacher and guide. Please open our minds to receive the precious instruction about things to come and what our Lord Jesus has done for us by bringing us into His heavenly family and making us children of God.

Hymn: 'Ancient words ever true' Michael Smith

1. Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart, oh, let the Ancient words impart.
2. Words of Life, words of Hope give us strength, help us cope
In this world, where e'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us Home.
*Ancient words ever true, changing me, changing you.
We have come with open hearts; oh let the ancient words impart.*
3. Holy words of our Faith handed down to this age.
Came to us through sacrifice, oh heed the faithful words of Christ.
4. Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world.
They resound with God's own heart, oh let the ancient words impart.

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Reading of Scripture:

- Revelation chapter 5.

What John sees brings him to tears. But not for long. Soon he stands before such a philharmonic anthem of dance and worship, from every redeemed creature in all time. A glimpse of creation renewed in stunning vitality and glorious order. The fisherman who leaned upon Jesus at Passover, who saw him covered in blood on Pilates stake; now sees what it all means.

Hymn: Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. by John W Peterson

1. O what a wonderful, wonderful day, day I will never forget
After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Saviour I met
O what a tender, compassionate friend, He met the need of my heart
Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart

'The Hevenoscope- *Glimpses to excite*'

*Heaven came down and glory filled my soul
When at the cross my Saviour made me whole
My sins were washed away, and my night was turned to day
Heaven came down and glory filled my soul*

2. Born of the Spirit with life from above into God's fam'ly divine
Justified fully thru Calvary's love, O what a standing is mine
And the transaction so quickly was made when as a sinner I came
Took of the offer of grace He did proffer, He saved me, O praise His dear name
3. Now I've a hope that will surely endure after the passing of time
I have a future in heaven for sure there in those mansions sublime
And it's because of that wonderful day when at the cross I believed
Riches eternal and blessings supernal from His precious hand I received

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Message: 'The Hevenoscope: Glimpses to excite'

You and I are created to move, to explore, to be lured onward by curiosity. The Weekend Australian has a dedicated section called 'Travel'; panoramic photographs to excite of destinations around the globe – travel packages with accommodation and excursions to thrill and memories for a lifetime.

Diving into caves in remote localities. Trains wending around mountains. Coral reefs, shark cages, even excursions to Mt Everest. Or simply sit in carriages and coaches and view the passing scenery. Plus extreme adventures, if you have a spare billion dollars, for a three minute ride into the stratosphere on a rocket plane.

Or plunging into the depths in a special mini submarine. Some parts of the ocean are over 30,000 feet deep. As deep as the height of a cruising passenger jet. In the great depths of the ocean in total darkness, there are vast regions never known and never likely to be known by man.

But recently, explorers went deeper into the ocean than ever before. It was in an especially made Bathoscope enabling photographs of weird creatures of the deep. Huge cuttlefish-looking monsters, strange iridescent see-through fish and tiny creatures shaped like nothing else ever seen.

All this life and activity happening for thousands of years under passing galleons, sailing ships of old, and the massive oil tankers of today – yet out of reach until the special Bathoscope was available for men to have a peek.

Something like this happened to the Apostle John on Patmos Island. He came to be '*in the Spirit*',ⁱ and was taken not into the depths but into the heights. He saw Heaven through its opened door; dazzling colours and reflections. Grand buildings set in a city that seemed limitless in dimensions, dwarfing the greatest cities on earth through all history.

And people-multitudes. And beings! He heard music, saw activities, shivered at great

'The Heavenscope- *Glimpses to excite*'

declarations of future events.

A magnificent Person, majestic and glorious sitting on thrones; settled, sovereign, dwelling in utter holy peace. He saw (indistinctly) four strange beings like – but only like – what he recalled reading in the visions of Isaiah and Ezekiel, like another dimension of what they sawⁱⁱ

Then he heard and saw answers to perplexing questions aroused by injustices and cruelty on the earth. He saw like a new world of endless horizons with everything needed to obliterate human want and suffering. He saw the end of the causes of pain, violence, and suffering.

And all of this he saw as if being escorted by specially designated guides who seemed to know everything about this glorious order of thrilling beauty. He felt like a special guest and was left with a longing for the day to come when he would inherit his place in it allⁱⁱⁱ. But in the meantime, he was told to share what he saw with the saints-believers everywhere who needed such encouragement^{iv}.

Yes, we are invited to travel . Jesus our Redeemer has booked, paid and assembled all the necessary details and vehicles of travel. We were known by Him before the world was created, known and nestled in His Life until our first travel experience, in the womb of a carriage called 'mother'. Held in a a dark tiny watery cocoon. For a brief season. Could we have ever imagined where we were heading after just nine months there? And now through His care and endless love, he has much more for us.

We should let the exciting presence of His gift to us, the Comfort-Counsellor strengthen us every day in solid hope! Growing more confident, more steadfast in the certainty of our inheritance. In fact in the very status He has already raised us to and wants to thrill us with peeks and glimpses of where we are now and where we are heading.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I receive your information about my future life. Let it stir and thrill my expectations. Let it chase away my fears and stir me to live now in the way I shall live forever in your home, the eternity you have ready for me. Lift my vision, open my eyes and tune my ears to what you have prepared for your people. Thank you Lord Jesus for taking my guilt to the cross, carrying all my sorrows and bringing me innocent and right into the presence of God. Thank you, Lord Jesus for bringing me into your everlasting family.

Hymn: *by Fanny Crosby*

1. To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son;
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!*

'The Heavenscope- *Glimpses to excite*'

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son:
And give Him the glory! Great things He hath done!*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.
3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

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Benediction:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, *be* glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever.

Amen

This service was prepared by Rev Ian Clarkson for HopeNet SA

ⁱ Revelation 1:10,4:2.

ⁱⁱ Ezekiel Chpt 1, Isaiah Chpt 6.

ⁱⁱⁱ Revelation Chpts 21,22 , especially verse 22.20 and its fulfilment of Daniel 1:13,

^{iv} Revelation 21:16