

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet*

21 August 2022

Song: ... Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.

... Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!

Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;

His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy Name, the Lord, the mighty One.

... Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight;

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

... Tell out, my soul, the glories of His Word!

Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!

Prayer

Song: Hear the call of the Kingdom
Lift your eyes to the King
Let His song rise within you
As a fragrant offering
Of how God rich in mercy
Came in Christ to redeem
All who trust in His unfailing grace

Hear the call of the Kingdom
To be children of light

With the mercy of heaven
The humility of Christ
Walking justly before Him
Loving all that is right
That the life of Christ may shine through us
King of Heaven we will answer the call

We will follow bringing hope to the world
Filled with passion filled with power to
proclaim
Salvation in Jesus' name

Hear the call of the Kingdom
To reach out to the lost
With the Father's compassion
In the wonder of the cross
Bringing peace and forgiveness
And a hope yet to come
Let the nations put their trust in Him

Reading: Luke 13.10-17

¹⁰ One Sabbath Jesus was teaching in a synagogue. ¹¹ A woman there had an evil spirit that had kept her sick for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not straighten up at all. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called out to her, "Woman, you are free from your sickness!" ¹³ He placed his hands on her, and at once she straightened herself up and praised God.

¹⁴ The official of the synagogue was angry that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, so he spoke up and said to the people, "There are six days in which we should work; so come during those days and be healed, but not on the Sabbath!"

¹⁵ The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Any one of you would untie your ox or your donkey from the stall and take it out to give it water on the Sabbath. ¹⁶ Now here is this descendant of Abraham whom Satan has kept in bonds for eighteen years; should she not be released on the Sabbath?" ¹⁷ His answer made his enemies ashamed of themselves, while the people rejoiced over all the wonderful things that he did.

Body prayer

Song: In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea
In the silence, You won't let go

In the questions, Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea

My Lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse (oh oh)
I will trust the promise,
You will carry me safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore (Oh-oh-oh-oh-oh)
Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh oh

Sermon: Stand tall for the Lord

What might it mean to stand tall for the Lord? Here in Luke's gospel, we meet a woman weighed down with sickness, overcome with evil and literally bent over so her head cannot be lifted up. For this woman, standing tall for the Lord came when he called to her. She was seen by Jesus, and he called to her. He brings her pain and battle over 18 years to the very centre of the story of God's liberation. Her standing tall meant a spiritual and physical restoration and her praising God for his mercy.

But what might it mean to stand tall for the ruler of the synagogue? This man is a rotas

man. He's the one with the clipboard standing at the door ensuring every volunteer is found and the synagogue readings, prayers and preachers are organised like clockwork. This man loves a list. He stands tall on the might and efficiency of his organisation; he stands tall in a job well done. He stands tall on his identity and on the practice of keeping the sabbath. On the sabbath, no work should be done. God made the world in 6 days and then he rested, so the sabbath is a holy day. Standing tall for him meant keeping the sabbath and keeping his identity and faith alive. His devotion to standing tall meant no work whatsoever on the sabbath. Work was not just a job, but also included work of any kind. So, no tearing of cloth or paper, no use of transport, no cooking, no unnecessary medical work unless it was life-threatening.

Standing tall against the actions of Jesus, the angry ruler of the synagogue called all the people listening to Jesus to question the healing of the woman. He was standing up for what he thought was right, she was standing up for the first time in 18 years.

Jesus is standing tall with a new name in this story: the Lord. Jesus is standing up for the woman whose life has been a trainwreck and standing against clipboard Colin. But this tiny story sets the tone for the bigger role Jesus takes on too: standing up to Satan.

As he claims his teaching authority 'Lord' he reminds the people that if a donkey can be untied to drink on the sabbath, how much more can a woman be untied or loosed from sickness. The kingdom of God breaks the bonds of oppression and sets us free. God sets us free. Jesus is calling the people to recognise that healing, liberation and restoration are signs of the kingdom, the kingdom of God. He begins to show here that he is standing tall against the powers of darkness, against evil, against sickness and against Satan. So whenever there is healing, is a sign not just of God's restoration to an

individual but a sign to the whole world that evil will not triumph in the end.

Christ is always looking out for those on the edge of society, on the edge of the church and life itself. Who do you think he is looking for now? He is calling each of us who are weighed down, bent over in pain, suffering and mental anguish to be healed and restored. How can we bring those from the edge into the centre of God's community?

Standing tall for the Lord today is about developing a posture of grace, welcome and love. God's love and grace can strengthen any soul, so that we can stand tall for the Lord. The way of Jesus is to stand up for all those who need God's restoration, and may our lips then be full of praise to the God of liberation, restoration and hope.

Song: Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Communion

Prayers for world led by Mary Adjei

Notices & collection

Song: Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here
We pray

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made

Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your Church
And we need Your power
In us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church
And we pray revive
This earth (we're prayin' for revival)

Blessing