

# A testing time

Daniel 1: 1 – 21  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2022

# Welcome and notices

- Church meeting after the service



# Call to worship

Psalm 55:22 says, “Cast your troubles upon the Eternal; His care is unceasing!

He will not allow his righteous to be shaken. (The Voice)



# Opening prayer

Dear Father,  
Quieten our minds, still our hearts,  
for your living ways are all we seek  
Strengthen our lives, inspire our  
spirits, in your living waters flows  
endless grace. **Amen.**



# Give thanks to the Lord



**Give thanks to the Lord,  
Our God and King:  
His love endures forever.  
For He is good,  
He is above all things.  
His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise.**



**With a mighty hand  
And an outstretched arm  
His love endures forever.  
For the life that's been  
reborn.**

**His love endures forever.  
Sing praise, sing praise,  
Sing praise, sing praise.**

**Forever God is faithful,  
Forever God is strong.  
Forever God is with us,  
Forever.**

***(Repeat)***





**From the rising to the setting  
sun,**

**His love endures forever.**

**By the grace of God, we will  
carry on.**

**His love endures forever.**

**Sing praise, sing praise,**

**Sing praise, sing praise.**



**Forever God is faithful,  
Forever God is strong.  
Forever God is with us,  
Forever.**

***(Repeat)***

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**Bowthorpe  
Church**

I will bless the Lord forever



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**I will bless the Lord forever**

**I will trust him at all times**

**He has delivered me from all  
fear**

**He has set my feet upon a rock**

**And I will not be moved**

**And I'll say of the Lord:**



**You are my shield, my  
strength,  
My portion, deliverer,  
My shelter, strong tower,  
My very present help in  
time of need**



**Whom have I in heaven but  
you?  
There's none I desire  
besides you  
And you have made me glad  
And I'll say of the Lord:**



**You are my shield, my strength,  
My portion, deliverer,  
My shelter, strong tower,  
My very present help**



**You are my shield, my strength  
My portion, deliverer,  
My shelter, strong tower,  
My very present help in times  
of need.**

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# Purify my heart



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**Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold  
And precious silver.  
Purify my heart,  
Let me be as gold,  
Pure gold.**



**Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy,  
Set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for You, my Master,  
Ready to do Your will.**



**Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy.  
Purify my heart,  
Cleanse me from my sin,  
Deep within.**

# Confession

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our wilfulness and seek his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.



**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way, and rejected your will for our lives. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive**



**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to  
live for you, and to please you in  
every way;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**



# Assurance of pardon

Our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.





Thanks be to God for his  
inexpressible gift!

**Amen.**



# Offertory prayer

God of all goodness and grace,  
receive the gifts we offer and grant  
that our whole life may give you  
glory and praise, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



# Daniel 1: 1 - 12

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.



2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.



3 Then the king ordered  
Ashpenaz, chief of his court  
officials, to bring into the king's  
service some of the Israelites from  
the royal family and the nobility



4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.



He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years,



and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.





7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.



8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favour and compassion to Daniel,



10 but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”



11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12 “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.



13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” 14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.



15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. 16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.



17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.



18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael





and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all



the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.



This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



# Guide me O thou great Jehovah



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**Guide me, O Thou  
great Jehovah,  
Pilgrim through this barren  
land;  
I am weak, but Thou art  
mighty;  
Hold me with Thy powerful  
hand:**



**Bread of Heaven,  
Bread of Heaven**

**Feed me now and evermore,  
Feed me now and evermore.**



**Open now the  
crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing  
stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery,  
cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my  
journey through:**



**Strong deliverer,  
Strong deliverer  
Be Thou still my  
strength and shield,  
Be Thou still my  
strength and shield.**





**When I tread the  
verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious  
fears subside:  
Death of death,  
and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on  
Canaan's side:**



**Songs of praises,  
Songs of praises,  
I will ever give to Thee,  
I will ever give to Thee.**

**William Williams (1717-91) altd.  
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# A testing time



# Prayers of intercession



These are responsive prayers:  
Father hear our prayer,  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**



# The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done on earth as in  
heaven**



**Give us today our daily bread.  
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. Amen.**





Lord I come before your  
throne of grace



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**Lord, I come before Your throne of  
grace;**

**I find rest in Your presence**

**And fullness of joy.**

**In worship and wonder**

**I behold Your face,**

**Singing what a faithful God have I.**

**What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.**



**Lord of mercy,  
You have heard my cry;  
Through the storm  
You're the beacon,  
My song in the night in the shelter  
of Your wings  
Hear my heart's reply,  
Singing what a faithful God have I.**



**What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.**



**Lord, all sovereign,  
granting peace from heav'n,  
Let me comfort those who suffer  
with the comfort  
You have giv'n.  
I will tell of Your great love for as  
long as I live,  
Singing what a faithful God have I.**



**What a faithful God have I,  
What a faithful God.  
What a faithful God have I,  
Faithful in every way.**

# Closing prayer

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on  
you and be gracious to you; the  
Lord turn his face towards you and  
give you peace and the blessing





of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit be among  
you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



Go in peace to love and serve  
the Lord

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

