

**Sunday 29th November 2020**

**Call to worship**

**Psalm 23**

**Prayer**

**Songs:** Hosanna Praise is rising / Good good father

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**Kids Talk – Coralee and Sarah**

**Kids leave**

**Notices Jono**

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**Songs: The cross of Christ / The blessing**

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**Sunday 29th November 2020 Sermon**

**‘Philippian Contentment’**

**‘for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have’ 4v11**

**Philippians 4v10-23 NLT**

How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. **11** Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. **12** I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. **13** For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. **14** Even so, you have done well to share with me in my present difficulty. **15** As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then travelled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. **16** Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. **17** I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

**18** At the moment I have all I need—and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. **19** And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. **20** Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen.

**Paul's Final Greetings**

**21** Give my greetings to each of God's holy people—all who belong to Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings. **22** And all the rest of God's people send you greetings, too, especially those in Caesar's household. **23** May the

grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

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## **Sermon**

### **Contentment is Found in Christ v11-13**

**Q:** What kind of things can cause us to be discontented?

'But godliness with contentment is great gain. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that'. 1 Timothy 6:6, 8

'Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" Hebrews 13:5

Contentment comes through trusting in God. God is the one who gives the strength to respond to trials with a steadfast joyful contentment. v13

### **Our willing gifts are a pleasing sacrifice to God v18**

When we show love by supporting God's workers, we show love to God Himself. It is also a way we experience fellowship (partnership/sharing) v14

Willing gifts cause the recipient to rejoice too! v10

Paul describes their giving as something that has 'blossomed again!' (horticultural term)

*'the Philippian gift was precious with the weight of love'* HCG Moule

### **Generosity will be rewarded v17&19**

**Q:** In what ways have you known a 'reward' when you have given to others?

It does not say that God will make you rich. It simply says that God will take care of your needs.

### **'I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength' v13**

In truth there's millions of things we cannot do, so what does this mean? It means we can do more than simply get through this life when Jesus is with us, and we can face things together with Him.

This is a declaration of how Christians are going to get through life despite troubles, by being in union with Christ, the one who empowers us.

We will have trouble, but we do not need to worry because He has overcome the world John 16v33.

We need to remember our final goal is the resurrection and new bodies ([Phil. 1:28](#); [3:11](#), [21](#)).

We can indeed be strong in every situation due to our union with Christ, because even if our lives are full of troubles, we have **peace** from Christ, **joy** in Christ, and hope for the future.

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### **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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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**Songs:** Great is thy faithfulness

### **Blessing:**

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all'.

2 Corinthians 13v14