

## REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2014 HOLY COMMUNION

**Sing before:** Psalm 100:1-4

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Psalm of praise: Psalm 103:1

**Confession of faith:** Nicene

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

**Amen.**

*After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 99:4, 5*

Law

Psalm: 99:4, 5

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**

- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Scripture Versification 45:1, 12

**Scripture reading:** Isaiah 66

**Scripture text:** Isaiah 66:22

**"For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain.**  
(Isaiah 66:22)

The Lord reveals that the entire mankind consists out of two groups:

- On the one hand are the people who believe in God and worship Him.
  - The one group is always guided and strengthened by the Lord.
  - He cares for them through this life till eternity,
  - They are those who will inhabit the new earth together with Him.
  - The Lord Jesus commands them to sit at His table so that He, through the Holy Communion, continually could ensure them about their salvation and eternal bliss.
- The other group is the people who do not know and do not worship God.

Through the years it always was so that there were people inside and outside of church who were non-believers and by the things they did and said brought dishonour to the Lord.

- This happens (and happened) because these people think about the Lord as if He is like we humans.
- They think that the Lord thinks and acts like a human and should they think that He is making a mistake they get angry at Him

The Lord does not want us to think in an earthly way about Him. Therefore He reveals that the heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool. These words depict the greatness of the Lord.

He is almighty great.

- In His Being and Majesty He is very highly elevated above us.
- Therefore He can bless and punish as He likes. He makes the rules.
- He blesses those who stay with it and He destroys those who do not want to obey.

In this passage of Scripture the Lord reveals the thoroughness of the way in which He investigates the people. He knows exactly which people are wrong and which are right. According to that He grants grace.

In verse two the Lord describes who the people are that He will grant grace:

**"But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. (Bible in Basic English: but to this man only will I give attention, to him who is poor and broken in spirit, fearing my word.)"**

Thereafter the Lord describes all those who are in the church, but will not be granted grace because they are to be punished. They are divided into quite a few groups:

- The one does not think that the Lord knows everything he does in life: he brings a bull as sacrifice to the Lord, but he is a murderer.
- The other offers to the Lord and to idols: he brings a lamb for the Lord, but he also sacrifices dogs to the idols.
- The other has his own rules because he serves the Lord as he likes: he brings offers of grain, but also offers of pig blood.

There are still more of them.

Later the Lord again refers to them when He reveals what He would do to these people. (Verse 6) He says that the believers listen:

- There is a noise from the city caused by the Lord punishing these people.
- But they must also go and see, it is not only in the streets of the city where the Lord is punishing: also **a noise from the temple** of the Lord punishing His enemies.

At the same time something else is happening:

- Whilst the one group of people are moving into the most terrible pain and anxiety of destruction amongst the other group the greatest joy and jubilation is taking place.
- Zion travailed and also brought forth her sons. The end has arrived and suddenly the children of the Lord are in the hereafter.

The tenderness of the Lord towards this group of people is described here.

- The Lord loves them like a parent cuddles a very small child.
- The Lord nourishes them with His eternal kingdom which is here described as Jerusalem: The New Jerusalem, because the city is upon the new earth. (Verse 22)
- This group of children of the Lord delight themselves in the fullness of Jerusalem's glory. (verse 11)
- They and all their children who were obedient to the covenant of the Lord are gathered there forever. (V.22)

The atmosphere reigning over the New Jerusalem while the people are arriving is also described.

**Behold, I will hold out peace to her like a river**

Verse 19 further reveals that the Lord will save people from all nations and at that moment bring with the New Jerusalem.

- Everybody arriving there will experience the peace of God: the peace and redemption worked by the Saviour.
- The Lord reveals that this moment would be marked by the creation of the New heaven and the new earth (and at the same time the creation of the hell – v.24)

- The believers of all generations are suddenly together and serve the Lord every moment - from one new moon to another and from one Sabbath to another.

The time in the hereafter is one continuous Sabbath. It is as eternity of praise and thank giving to God the Lord.

The Lord refers a few times in the Bible to the New heaven and the new earth. The first time is in Isaiah 65:17

**"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. (Bible in Basic English: For see, I am making a new heaven and a new earth: and the past things will be gone completely out of mind.)"**

The second time is in our verse of text. The third time is in the New Testament when the apostle Peter writes the following: (2 Peter 3:13)

**Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (New King James)  
But having faith in his word, we are looking for a new heaven and a new earth, which will be the resting-place of righteousness. (Bible in Basic English)**

Peter refers to it that the Lord Jesus promised the new heaven and the new earth.

- In this New heaven and on this New earth there is no sin. Only what is right to the eyes of God is done there.
- Thereby the Lord reveals that His council and promises through the ages are the same because His Will after the arrival of Jesus Christ is still the same as what He gave to the prophet Isaiah.

The apostle John is taken by the Lord Jesus Christ (who is our Host this morning) to the new heaven where he sees the new heaven and the new earth. He describes it as such: (Revelation 21:1)

**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (New King James) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were gone; and there was no more sea. (Bible in Basic English)**

The Lord who promises this new heaven and new earth, who at the moment is preparing the arrival thereof, prepared this table for you.

- He will feed you with simple tokens, namely with bread and a cup of wine.
- The meaning of this meal does not lie in the bread and the cup of wine.
  - It lies in the matters which not yet cannot be seen: the arrival of the new heaven and the new earth.
- At the table the Lord Jesus ensures you that He completely absolved you from all your sins, so that you can be assured about a residence on this new earth.

Come partake in the Holy Communion and thereby practice communion with the eternal Saviour that

- redeemed all your sins to God the Father on Golgotha

- guarantees your resurrection from the death
- provides you with a place of residence on the new earth.

**Amen.**

**Prayer.**

**Psalm 63:3**

**Formulary**

**Psalm 23:1, 3**

**To the table:**

**During Holy Communion: Psalm 116**

**Closing prayer.**

**Closing Psalm: Psalm 146:1, 8**

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

**Amen**

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16 November 2014

Scripture: Modern King James Version or as specifically stated otherwise.