

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

25 April 2024

3.30 pm & 6.30 pm



The Strict Baptist Chapel St David's Bridge Cranbrook

Preacher: Mr. M. J. Hyde

*Marking the 244th Anniversary of the formation of the Church in 1780
and the 237th Anniversary of the move to the Chapel in 1787*

The hymns today are all by Isaac Watts. This year is the 350th Anniversary of his birth.

We have 147 of his hymns in Gadsby's Selection. He is often called the "Father of English Hymnody": he was the first popular English hymn writer.

His most published book was his Psalms of David, first published in 1719. In his poetic paraphrases of the psalms, Watts adapted the psalms for use by the Church and made David speak "the language of a Christian." Besides over 600 hymns, Watts published 52 other works.

Afternoon Service

(Note: All tune numbers refer to the Companion Tune Book)

1 *Tune: Glasgow 854 (C.M.)*

1 Behold the glories of the Lamb,
Amidst his Father's throne;
Prepare new honours for his name,
And songs before unknown.

2 Let elders worship at his feet;
The church adore around;
With vials full of odours sweet,
And harps of sweeter sound.

3 Those are the prayers of the saints,
And these the hymns they raise –
Jesus is kind to our complaints,
He loves to hear our praise.

4 Eternal Father, who shall look
Into thy secret will?
Who but the Son shall take that book,
And open every seal?

5 He shall fulfil thy great decrees;
The Son deserves it well;
Lo! in his hands the sovereign keys
Of heaven, and death, and hell.

6 Now to the Lamb that once was slain,
Be endless blessings paid;
Salvation, glory, joy remain
For ever on thy head.

7 Thou hast redeemed our souls with blood,
Hast set the prisoners free,
Hast made us kings and priests to God,
And we shall reign with thee.

This hymn was the first that Isaac Watts wrote. He was about 20 at the time.

It is based on Revelation 5:6-12

This hymn is a tribute to Christ's vicarious atonement, sovereign power, and eternal reign.

The first three verses are about God;

The next two verses are addressed to God the Father;

Verses 6-8 are addressed to Christ.

- 8 The worlds of nature and of grace
Are put beneath thy power;
Then shorten these delaying days,
And bring the promised hour.

Isaac Watts, 19 Gadsby's Hymn Book (GHB)

Reading & Prayer

2 *Tune: Sheffield 235 (C.M.)*

- 1 Arise, my soul, my joyful powers,
And triumph in thy God;
Awake, my voice, and loud proclaim
His glorious grace abroad.
- 2 He raised me from the depths of sin,
The gates of gaping hell;
And fixed my standing more secure
Than 'twas before I fell.
- 3 The arms of everlasting love
Beneath my soul he placed,
And on the Rock of Ages set
My slippery footsteps fast.
- 4 The city of my blest abode
Is walled around with grace;
Salvation for a bulwark stands,
To shield the sacred place.
- 5 Satan may vent his sharpest spite,
And all his legions roar;
Almighty mercy guards my life,
And bounds his raging power.
- 6 Arise, my soul! awake my voice,
And tunes of pleasure sing;
Loud hallelujahs shall address
My Saviour and my King.

Redemption and
Protection.

Based on
Psalm. 40. 2, 3
and
Psalm 116. 8

Isaac Watts, 94 (GHB)

Sermon

3 *Tune: Rockingham 398 (L.M.)*

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See! from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree:
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.
- 5 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts wrote "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" in preparation for a communion service in 1707.

Originally, the hymn was named "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ," following the practice of the day to summarize a hymn's theme in the title.

It is based on Galatians 6:14

Isaac Watts, 439 (GHB) with extra verses.

When he was six, Isaac gave his mother a poem he had made with his name.

I am a vile polluted lump of earth
S-o I've continu'd ever since my birth
A-lthough Jehovah grace does daily give me
A-ssure this monster Satan will deceive me
C-ome, therefore, Lord, from Satan's claws relieve me.
W-ash me in thy blood, O Christ
A-nd grace divine impart
T-hen search and try the corners of my heart
T-hat I in all things may be fit to do
S-ervice to thee, and sing thy praises too

Evening Service

4 *Tune: Tremellen 250 (C.M.)*

- 1 We bless the Prophet of the Lord,
 That comes with truth and grace;
 Jesus, thy Spirit and thy word
 Shall lead us in thy ways.
- 2 We reverence our High Priest above,
 Who offered up his blood,
 And lives to carry on his love,
 By pleading with our God.
- 3 We honour our exalted King;
 How sweet are his commands!
 He guards our souls from hell and sin
 By his almighty hands.
- 4 Hosanna to his glorious name,
 Who saves by different ways!
 His mercies lay a sovereign claim
 To our immortal praise.

Isaac Watts, 124 (GHB)

Reading & Prayer

5 *Tune: Warrington 432 (L.M.)*

- 1 God in his earthly temples lays
 Foundations for his heavenly praise;
 He likes the tents of Jacob well,
 But still in Zion loves to dwell.
- 2 His mercy visits every house,
 That pay their night and morning vows;
 But makes a more delightful stay
 Where churches meet to praise and pray.

The Church the
Birth-place of the
Saints.

This hymn is
based on
Psalm 87

- 3 What glories were described of old!
What wonders are of Zion told!
Thou city of our God below,
Thy fame shall Tyre and Egypt know.
- 4 Egypt and Tyre, and Greek and Jew,
Shall there begin their lives anew;
Angels and men shall join to sing
The hill where living waters spring.
- 5 When God makes up his last account
Of natives in his holy mount,
'Twill be an honour to appear
As one new-born or nourished there.

Isaac Watts, 360 (GHB)

Sermon

6 *Tune: Pure Delight 929 (C.M.)*

- 1 There is a land of pure delight,
Where saints immortal reign;
Infinite day excludes the night,
And pleasures banish pain.
- 2 There everlasting spring abides,
And never-withering flowers;
Death, like a narrow sea, divides
This heavenly land from ours.
- 3 Sweet fields beyond the swelling flood
Stand dressed in living green;
So to the Jews old Canaan stood,
While Jordan rolled between.

Often Watts composed hymns based on the word he had preached from, and then they were sung after the sermon.

In this hymn he contemplates heaven. A comfort to him with his frail health.

- 4 But timorous mortals start and shrink
To cross the narrow sea,
And linger shivering on the brink,
And fear to launch away.
- 5 O could we make our doubts remove,
These gloomy doubts that rise,
And see the Canaan that we love
With unobscured eyes;
- 6 Could we but climb where Moses stood,
And view the landscape o'er,
Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,
Should fright us from the shore.

Isaac Watts, 1022 (GHB) with extra verses.

7 Doxology

506 GHB

Tune: Jubilee 548 CTB (148th)

To God the Father's throne
Perpetual honours raise;
Glory to God the Son;
To God the Spirit praise;
And while our lips their tribute bring,
Our faith adores the name we sing.

Isaac Watts

Isaac Watts was born on 17th July 1674 at Southampton, England, the eldest of nine children. His father was a Dissenter from the Anglican Church and on at least one occasion was thrown in jail for not following the Church of England. Isaac followed his father's strongly biblical faith. He began learning Latin at age four and went on to learn Greek, Hebrew, and French as well. In 1707 he published his first edition of Hymns and Spiritual Songs.

For a few years he served as an assistant and then pastor to an independent congregation in London. A violent and continual fever from which he never recovered forced him to leave the pastorate. Sir Thomas Abney received Watts into his home, and Sir Thomas' family continued to provide a home and serve as Watts' patrons for the next 36 years!

Isaac Watts died aged 74 on 25th November 1748, (32 years before the Church was formed here in Cranbrook) and was buried at Bunhill Fields. A monumental statue was erected in Southampton, his native place, in West Park, SO15 2BB, just less than a mile from Bethesda Strict Baptist Chapel. There is also a monument to his memory in the South Choir of Westminster Abbey. *(From Christian Classics Ethereal Library)*

*Tea will be served in the chapel between the services.
All are welcome to stay.*

Graces

Remain seated to sing.

Before Meal

Tune: Rimington 395

Be present at our table, Lord;
Be here and everywhere adored;
These mercies bless, and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.

After Meal

Tune: Wareham 431

We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food,
But more because of Jesus' blood;
Let manna to our souls be given,
The bread of life sent down from heaven.

In Paradise, within the gates,
A nobler entertainment waits,
Fruits new and old laid up in store,
Where we shall feast, and want no more.