

# morning

## 17 march 2024

**"tabernacle cardiff"**

**sunday 10.30am & 6.00pm**  
**wednesday 7.30pm**

opening prayer  
hymn

reading - isaiah 6v1-8

notices and hymn

children story

main prayer

hymn

sermon - habakkuk 1v13

hymn

closing prayer



**CW Retreat at Tabernacle**  
planned for March 2024 to be  
rearranged at a later date.

Details to follow

**Birmingham Conference**  
Friday 22 / Saturday 23 March  
Jonathan Northern, David  
Allen and Oliver Wyncoll

## 'purer eyes'

**Hab 1:13** *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?*

Habakkuk complains about the Lord judging Judah with a nation more sinful than Judah. He questions how the Lord could look past the sins of the Chaldeans (Babylon). The Lord answers him in the next chapter and shows how it will end for the Chaldeans. Even so, we can see in this chapter that Habakkuk knows the true nature of God and how his purer eyes cannot wink at sin.

## scrutiny of man's sins

To understand these purer eyes of God who cannot look at sin and be at rest, we must understand both the nature of God and Man.

We speak of the thrice holy God of Father Son and Spirit. His holiness is light and fire. We refer to the total depravity of man's heart, where all he does is touched by sin. With such holiness and such sin God cannot look at sin and be at ease, but must judge.

Think also of the Chaldeans and Judah as a picture of the worldly and the religious. These purer eyes cannot be at ease with the immorality of the worldly. These purer eyes cannot be at ease with the falseness of the religious.

## scrutiny of the blood

What then of those who have trusted in Christ who are washed in the blood and dressed in righteousness?

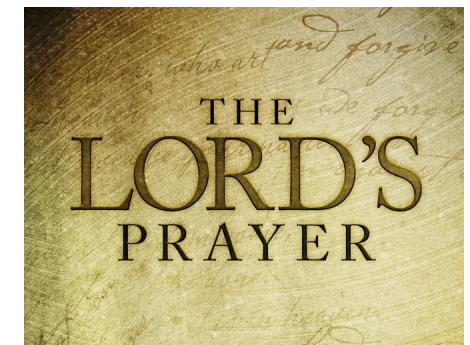
These purer eyes can only see men who are washed in the blood as whiter than snow. These purer eyes looked at Christ on the cross, who was made sin for us and judged him, so that men who trust in him are whiter than snow.

## scrutiny of righteousness

These purer eyes find no fault at all with any part of the obedience of Christ. Those in Christ have been given this righteousness. These purer eyes are satisfied with the sight of beauty and glory.

How we need Christ and his blood and righteousness to come before these purer eyes.

## children story - daily bread



As we pray for daily bread we might think of both bread for the body and the soul. Christ is the bread of Heaven.

# evening

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opening prayer  
hymn

reading - micah 7

notices / hymn

main prayer

hymn

sermon - micah 7v18-19

hymn

closing prayer

hymn 1176



### **“Man with a Mission”**

*Biography of Vernon Higham  
written by John Peters. Copies  
are available from the Church  
Office at the price of £5.00  
with payment online, cheque,  
cash or contactless. Postage  
costs to be included when  
posting.*

## ‘pardoning God’

**Mic 7:18** *Who is a God like  
unto thee, that pardoneth  
iniquity, and passeth by the  
transgression of the  
remnant of his heritage? he  
retaineth not his anger for  
ever, because he delighteth  
in mercy.*

**Mic 7:19** *He will turn again,  
he will have compassion  
upon us; he will subdue our  
iniquities; and thou wilt cast  
all their sins into the depths  
of the sea.*

Samuel Davies’ hymn is based  
on these words from Micah.  
‘Who is a pardoning God like  
thee, or who has grace so rich  
and free’ is the chorus of the  
hymn.

Like many prophets, who  
preach judgment, he also  
preaches a mercy to follow.  
He is moved by the greatness  
of this mercy. If we are to  
understand the magnitude of  
mercy and depths of pardon  
then we must also understand  
the mountains of guilt. We  
shall then see there is no  
pardon like this pardon.

## mountains of guilt

William Williams spoke of  
mountains of guilt in his well  
known hymn.

We see three different  
descriptions of sin, with the  
words iniquity, transgression  
and sin itself. They describe  
the rebellion and going astray  
of sin, and also the twisted  
moral nature of man.

We might trace our history of  
sin from its beginnings to our  
unsaved days and then to our  
saved days and our final days.

We sin because we are  
sinners and then as we grow  
we grow in our sins. We might  
mention three prominent types  
of sin with the unsaved, with  
immorality, hatred and  
materialism.

When we are saved we grow  
in grace and yet sin is very  
much present too. We sin with  
slowness of heart, and hearts  
which are unfaithful, not to  
mention lapses in our old sins.

As we look over our lives and  
see sin from beginning to end  
we might then see these  
mountains of guilt.

## depths of pardon

We then read of our sins being  
cast into the depths of the  
sea. These depths speak of  
our sins being lost to us. We  
might also reflect on the  
depths of Calvary, where  
Christ took away our sins  
through depths of suffering  
and dying.

It is these depths of Calvary  
that opens the way for this  
incomparable pardon. This  
pardon satisfies justice, as  
Christ met the demands of the  
law and justice.

We also note how God  
delights in this mercy.

Micah saw the magnitude of  
this pardon. Samuel Davies  
also saw the magnitude of this  
pardon. May the Lord help us  
to see the magnitude of this  
incomparable pardon.