

## ACC Service Plan for 27<sup>th</sup>September 2020

10.15am: Musical Prelude – Rebecca& Erwin or Music team

10.28am; Team prayer in the music corner

10.30am: Welcome & introductions of those serving

Good morning!

- Service Leader: Erwin Kinsey      Music: Erwin & Rebecca
- Zoom host: Michael Murray      Sound and Tech: Philip Mvungi
- Flowers: Erwin      Preacher: Rebecca Mosley

**Preacher bio:** Rebecca Mosley is no stranger here at ACC and has preached here several times before, also playing a lead role in our Sunday School. She and her husband coordinate the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Tanzania and she is the Chair of the ACC Worship Committee.

### **ACC Statement of Diversity**

“Arusha Community Church is an international, interdenominational, lay-led congregation. We are united through faith in Christ and worship in the English language. We come from a variety of Christian traditions and celebrate this diversity each week. We welcome you wherever you are in your journey of faith—however you got here, you are welcome!”

### **Opening Announcements**

“This service is zoomed for all today. We hope that you find this a satisfying worship experience as we seek to glorify God. Next week, for the first time since March, the worship services once again resume in our church, with several changes which you will be informed about.

Today is a family service.

Today’s Duty Elder is Susan Simonson who can be consulted by WhatsApp0754266559

### **Opening Prayer**

Almighty God, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us in each moment, that your promises are true and your goodness never fails us. Lord we come before you today to cleanse our hearts, our minds and our thoughts. To worship you with every fibre of our beings. To feel your presence and to be at peace with ourselves and this world. Help us, Lord, to learn more about you, and direct us to walk in the ways of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. For there is no greater opportunity on this earth than to follow in his footsteps. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.”

### **Gathering hymns:**

**MP1101 Lord Reign in Me**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzEkhTwiODc&list=RDZzEkhTwiODc&start\\_radio=1&t=34](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzEkhTwiODc&list=RDZzEkhTwiODc&start_radio=1&t=34)

Over all the earth you reign on high; Every mountain stream, every sunset sky  
But my one request, Lord my only aim is that you'd reign in me again

*Lord reign in me, reign in your power  
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour  
You are the Lord of all I am  
So won't you reign in me again*

Over every thought, over every word; May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord  
Cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing; So won't you reign in me again  
*Lord, reign in me, reign in Your power...*

### **Psalm 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

<sup>2</sup> I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

<sup>3</sup> No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,  
but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

<sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

<sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

<sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

<sup>9</sup> He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

### **Confession of Sin** (read together)

Most merciful God, we confess that we cannot free ourselves from sin's power. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may want to do your will. Help us to walk in your ways, that people may see our good works and glorify your name. Amen.

### **The Assurance of Forgiveness**

In 1 John we read: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God has had mercy on us. As a fellow sinner, I yet have the joy of announcing to all who repent and have faith in Christ that God hears your confession, and that through Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

### **MP 478 My song is love unknown**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms67WTevSg0>

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:  
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend.

Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King:  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save, The Prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes, that He His foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;  
In death, no friendly tomb, but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was His home; but mine the tomb wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

Epistle Reading [Philippians 2:1-13](#)

**Have the Attitude of Christ: Philippians 2:1-11 (NLT)**

**2** Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? **2** Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. **3** Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. **4** Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

**5** You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

**6** Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.

**7** Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

**8** he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

**9** Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor  
and gave him the name above all other names,

**10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**11** and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Children's story: Prince of the Garbage Children**

We just heard an amazing Bible passage about Jesus. Sometimes, the things we read in the Bible can be a little bit hard to picture. A pretend story can help us understand it a little better – to get a picture or a feeling about what the Bible is telling us. So I want to tell you a little pretend story now.

Once upon a time, there was a grown-up Prince, who lived in a castle with his Father the King and his Mother the Queen. They ruled over a kingdom which was more marvelous than anything you could imagine. They had everything they could possibly want. Trees full of delicious fruit grew in the castle garden and flowers of every kind were always blooming. The castle was full of fascinating rooms, and held beautiful books and interesting toys and every kind of thing you would want to do. The banquet table was always laid with amazing food. The royal family could do anything they wanted – they had all the power they could possibly want.

But that was not the most amazing thing about The King and Queen and Prince. The most amazing thing was that they loved each other completely and joyfully. Each one thought the others was the most wonderful person in the world. Everything they did was to bring out the best in the others. Everything they did was with love. They never wanted anything that would hurt the others – or themselves – even though they might have gotten it. They never had a wicked or selfish or jealous thought because their whole world was filled up with love. Their love spilled out from the royal family to all the people in the castle and in the whole kingdom. Even the servants loved their work and loved the King and the Queen and Prince and had everything they could have wanted. And the loving Royal family inspired everyone else to be loving and respectful and thoughtful to all the people around them. It's hard for us to even picture a world like that! Maybe the closest I've seen in a movie is the kingdom of Wakanda, when T'Challa was prince.

The only sorrow the Prince felt was when he got news of another, distant, Kingdom named Sheol. That faraway land had once belonged in their own realm, but it had been lost in a struggle long ago. And now Sheol was ruled by a King who was cruel and selfish and used fear to rule his people. Sheol's people were sad and hungry and no one ever had enough.

The Prince hated the thought of people suffering like this. He spoke with the King and Queen about it. "We have so much love and joy here! It is only right that we try to share it with the people of Sheol. Why should they suffer when they could know the same love as us? But of course, you can't teach people love and joy at the point of a sword. So, I will go and be one of them. I will teach them myself how we live here in our Kingdom." The King and Queen agreed with their Son whole-heartedly. They loved him for being a Prince who wanted to share their love generously with those who didn't have it. But they reminded him that when he got to Sheol, he would need to give up all his royal privileges and just live like anyone else there. He gladly did it. Imagine! Having everything, and yet feeling so free to just give it all up!

And so the Prince arrived in Sheol and found things even worse than he had expected. People were so poor and scared and untrusting! No one would even give him a place to

spend the night or a slice of bread to eat. He looked at them with compassion, but they just couldn't trust anyone. And so he ended up at the city dump, the place where all the trash was thrown out, joining up with a group of garbage children. These kids had lost their parents and had never known love. They tried to survive by picking through the garbage, looking for rotten scraps to eat and small things to sell. It was a disgusting, horrible life. And they didn't even want to help each other! They lied to each other and tried to steal each others' territory in the dump and struggled for who was going to be in charge. They only had one rule: If one child found special food, that child could keep it and eat it.

The Prince realized that he had ended up with a group of people who needed love more than anyone. He tried and tried to talk with the children about how they could live a different way. He tried to tell them about his Kingdom – but they just mocked him. He tried to show they love. They said it wasn't possible. That was not how the world worked! A few kids listened, hoping that it might possibly be true. It sounded really nice. But the next day, they kept on lying and tricking the other kids, just trying to keep surviving.

One day, a little boy, one of the weaker ones, discovered a cake box in a bag of rotten food garbage. There was almost half a cake inside, and it was only a little bit moldy and only half smashed. It was the greatest treasure a kid had ever found in the dump. Like the rule said, he took the cake box back to his little cardboard box house and was going to eat it by himself. But then the biggest bully in the gang thought, "I'm going to have that cake. I don't care about the rule. I'm big and no one can stop me!" So he went and knocked over the cardboard box home and took the cake from the little kid. Other garbage boys saw him do it. They hated him for being the strongest and meanest and so they all agreed to go after the bully and punish him. The punishment for breaking the one rule? Death!

Our Prince saw what was going on. He rushed to the gang of garbage boys who were holding the struggling bully. "NO!" he cried out. "Killing this bully is not the right thing. Love each other! Respect each other! There is another way to live – where everyone will have enough. Please listen!" The other garbage boys got mad. They growled, "How can you defend this bully! The rule was broken. Someone needs to die!" And the Prince calmly said, "OK, kill me. I'll die for him." And the children killed the Prince, in a horrible, undignified way.

And it looked like that was just the unfortunate, stupid end for such a good Prince. It looked like he had wasted his precious life. But here is the mystery, and I can't really explain why and how it happened. The Bully realized that the Prince had died the death he, the Bully-thief should have died. Three days later, the Bully saw something secret that turned him into a different person. So did the weak little kid. The bully and the small kid became joined in what they had experienced and become dear friends. Something started to change in the garbage children, one by one. And those garbage children of Sheol, being changed, started to change their whole kingdom, like a tiny matchlit in a dark night. And here is where a pretend story cannot even begin to explain what happened in the real story of the Bible. So soon we will hear more about this story in the sermon. (Story by Rebecca Mosley)

**MP 1086 Light of the world / Here I am to worship**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

Light of the world  
You stepped down into darkness. Opened my eyes, let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You

*Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days  
Oh so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created, All for love's sake became poor  
*Here I am to worship*

And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon the cross (3x)  
*Here I am to worship*

### **Ministry of The Word Rebecca Mosley**

Why do you worship God? That might seem to be a weird question, but actually there are a lot of different reasons why people worship God.

- Do you worship God because God is all powerful and all-knowing? Because he is great and strong and you are not?
- Do you worship God because you see God as kind of a strict teacher? Maybe you worry that if you don't do your homework (worship) you will get punished?
- Or do you worship God thinking that maybe if you do something for God, God will do something for you? Maybe God will answer your prayers and give you what you want?
- Some people just worship God because their parents make them, or because it is what everyone does on Sundays. So they go, even though it doesn't really mean anything.

Today, I want to begin at the end of our bible passage. Paul gives us a splendid picture of all creation worshipping God, and he tells us why they worship.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor  
and gave him the name above all other names,  
<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

We see everything in creation worshipping Jesus as God.  
things in heaven and on earth and under the earth – All creation falling on their faces and praising Jesus and worshipping him. We see:

- Jesus is lifted up to the highest place.
- God has given Jesus the name above all other names – God's name.
- All creation declares that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Meaning that in every way, **Jesus is God**. Jesus has shown us the full character of God.  
When we look at Jesus, we see most perfectly who our God is. And so when we worship

Jesus we are worshipping God in the most perfect way possible and for the best reasons possible.

Our worship of Jesus is what God really, really wants. God is not jealous – God wants this! Our whole-hearted worship of Jesus is to the glory of God the Father. When we worship Jesus, we are worshipping God in spirit and in truth, for the best reasons in the best way.

Paul starts this description of worship with the all-important word THEREFORE. Which means we must go back and look at WHY this scene of worship is happening. We find, just before this, an incredibly concise biography of Jesus and his life on earth. All his actions here are also a beautiful living out of what is in Jesus' heart:

<sup>6</sup> Though he was God,  
he did not think of equality with God  
as something to cling to.

<sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;  
he took the humble position of a slave  
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God  
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Trying to squeeze this monumental passage into a 10-minute sermon is a little bit like Jesus, the Most High God, pouring himself out and squeezing all his divine being into the tiny space of Mary's womb. But that's what this is about. Jesus is fully God, fully divine, with power and privilege that blows our minds. Jesus was also filled up with all the love and joy that is possible as a member of the Holy Trinity. And yet we see him pouring himself out, making himself small. This process of humbling himself is not "**in spite**" of being God. Jesus humbles himself precisely **because** he is God, and this is what God is like. This is how God shows us the full extent of his love and compassion, his intense desire to save us.

In a perfect picture of God's character, Jesus pours himself out and agrees to be born as a human baby. That is a much bigger drop in status than the one we heard of in the children's story: A Prince becoming a garbage child. It's much more like a Prince becoming a pig. A Prince becoming a termite. That's how big the difference was when Jesus willingly was born among us as a human child.

Jesus could have been born as the privileged child of an emperor. But no, he was born as the child of impoverished peasants. His parents were not even citizens of the empire. They were from a small marginalized tribe, a people without rights or power. When Jesus humbled himself, He took a nosedive from the very top level of status and divine privilege to the very bottom of the social ladder.

Everything Jesus did in his life, he did in complete obedience to God. He had poured himself out of all his privileges. Personally, I believe that Jesus also gave up any special divine powers when he came to live among us. He only had the same spiritual power than any of

us have – the power to pray to God the Father and wait in trust for the Holy Spirit to work. Jesus did not have special divine knowledge or ability. He had tremendous faith and a closeness to his Father. He listened well and he followed the will of the Father at every difficult, excruciating step, right up to the cross. That was his power.

What is the meaning of this loving faithful obedience, this willingness to die a criminal's death on a cross? – it's a mystery that is not fully explained in our passage. But it is the climax of Jesus' life, showing perfectly in every way the character of our God of love. Jesus on the cross is an explosion of power that ripples forward into history, bending the knees of all creation, loosening every tongue to declare that Jesus alone is worthy of worship.

And Jesus' loving death on the cross – his attitude of humble obedience – ripples out to us! If we worship God in Jesus, then we worship rightly! We worship God, not because he is great and powerful, but because Jesus was small and humble. We worship God because Jesus gave up everything to save us. We worship God because Jesus was willing to become like the least among us, and so those of us who are least are lifted with Jesus to the highest places. We worship God because Jesus is Lord, and we are humbled and awed and grateful that this is who our God is. Truly there is no one like our God.

I think Christians sometimes, somehow worship the wrong God. Some worship the God of power and might, the punishing God, the God who might just give us something if we ask nicely. And that leaves us living like garbage children, living in a city dump, lying and cheating each other, stealing and fighting for survival. How else can we explain the bad behavior, the fighting and power games of so many so-called Christians, even bishops and important religious people. They just have not yet seen the truth of God's nature, perfectly revealed in Jesus.

When I get discouraged by the failures of the church, the evil done by people who call themselves Christians, that's when I really need this passage. I love this passage. I remember that this is who our God really is. I remember the beauty of Jesus, I am humbled and grateful for his love for us. I find myself back in a place where I can worship truly.

And when we worship truly, when we open our eyes to the true God worthy of right worship, it changes how we live. The first part of the passage makes sense! We have encouragement from belonging to Christ! We have comfort from his love! We have fellowship together in the Spirit! Our hearts become tender and compassionate in the light of right worship. And this gives us the power to live with the same attitude of Christ Jesus: We can agree wholeheartedly with each other, love one another, and work together with one mind and purpose. We can stop being selfish or just trying to impress others. Because Jesus did it before us, we can have the courage to be humble and to think of others as better than ourselves. We can stop looking out only for our own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

So thanks be to God who showed us the fullest extent of his love and compassion through the life and death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



**Prayers** (announce WhatsApp for corporate prayer at 5-6pm today)

**(insert prayers)**

The Lord's Prayer:

Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name:

Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Almighty God, accept these prayers, both spoken and unspoken, as symbols of our desire to emphasise the good in this world. Help us to live as true Christians, to remember you in all that we do and to seek you always. We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, Amen!

**Offertory**(remind people to pay by MPESA through You may continue giving to ACC during these extraordinary times through the channels below:

ACC MPESA number +255755 992 394 in the name of Nasieku Mollel

ORACC EXIM BANK account number: 0030023252

**Offertory prayer:**

Heavenly Father, You are the Creator and Source of all things good. You have showered us with greatness and love even on the days we have turned against You. Look into our hearts and receive this heartfelt thanksgiving we offer to you. Thank You for all the gifts and blessings You have bestowed upon us and our families. Give us in turn to bless others through these gifts as symbols of our thanks for Your kindness. May these gifts multiply in our community and beyond to extend your kingdom and give You glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Church Announcements**

Call up the Duty Elder for a few words

**Sending hymn:** MP 1094 Shout to the North

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctc3GqWaV3U>

1 Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King;  
you are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.

*Shout to the north and the south, sing to the east and the west:  
Jesus is Saviour to all, Lord of heaven and earth.*

2 Rise up women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts,  
who can know the healing power of our glorious King of love.

*Shout to the north . . .*

We've been through fire, we've been through rain;  
we've been refined by the power of His name.  
We've fallen deeper in love with You,  
You've burned the truth on our lips.  
*Shout to the north . . .*

3 Rise up church with broken wings; fill this place with songs again,  
of our God who reigns on high: by His grace again we'll fly.  
*Shout to the north . . .*

Lord of heaven and earth. *(3 times)*

**Benediction** Rebecca Mosley

Our Lord Jesus did not cling to his divine, princely privileges,  
But was born among us and lived with us, the garbage children,  
in humble, loving, obedient sacrifice.  
Jesus showed us the true face of God in everything he did and said.  
And so now, in loving gratitude,  
Let us praise our God in Jesus  
And let our whole lives be an act of praise  
as we imitate the example of our Lord Jesus.

Leader: **"Go in Peace, to love and serve the Lord."**

Congregation: **"Thanks be to God."**