

Sunday 28 April 2024

**Matthew 24:29–35**Leading  
Speaking**William Taylor  
Phil Hudson**

Please turn all phones and other communicating devices completely off (or on flight mode). Devices on silent can still interfere with the PA system and sermon recordings.

**'Jesus is Lord'—the cry that echoes through creation:**

resplendent pow'r, eternal Word, our Rock.

The Son of God, the King whose glory fills the heavens,  
yet bids us come to taste this living Bread.Jesus is Lord—whose voice sustains the stars and planets,  
yet in his wisdom laid aside his crown.Jesus the Man, who washed our feet, who bore our suffering,  
became a curse to bring salvation's plan.

Jesus is Lord—the tomb is gloriously empty!

Not even death could crush this King of love!

The price is paid, the chains are loosed, and we're forgiven,  
and we can run into the arms of God.

'Jesus is Lord'—a shout of joy, a cry of anguish,

as he returns, and every knee bows low.

Then every eye and every heart will see his glory,  
the Judge of all will take his children home.Stuart Townend and Keith Getty\*© Copyright 2003 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
in the evil we have done  
and in the good we have not done,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault

We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.©Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England**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.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**Children and young people leave for their groups**

Leader Just as it is appointed  
for man to die once,  
and after that comes judgement,  
**All so Christ,**  
**having been offered once**  
**to bear the sins of many,**  
**will appear a second time,**  
**not to deal with sin**  
**but to save those**  
**who are eagerly waiting for him.**

Hebrews 9:27–28 ESVUK

**O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder**  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed;  
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,*  
*how great thou art, how great thou art!*  
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,*  
*how great thou art, how great thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:  
*Then sings my soul...*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die—I scarce can take it in  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:  
*Then sings my soul...*

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation  
and take me home—what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall I bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, ‘my God, how great thou art!’  
*Then sings my soul...*

Carl Gustaf Boberg (1856–1940)

tr. from the Russian by Stuart Wesley Keene Hine (1899–1989)

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## Prayers

**Reading** 2 Peter 3:1–18

**1 Your grace that leads this sinner home**  
from death to life forever,  
and sings the song of righteousness  
by blood and not by merit;

2 your grace that reaches far and wide  
to every tribe and nation  
has called my heart to enter in  
the joy of your salvation.  
*By grace I am redeemed,  
by grace I am restored,  
and now I freely walk  
into the arms of Christ my Lord.*

3 Your grace that I cannot explain,  
not by my earthly wisdom:  
the Prince of Life, without a stain,  
was traded for this sinner.  
*By grace I am redeemed,  
by grace I am restored,  
and now I freely walk  
into the arms of Christ my Lord.*

4 Let praise rise up and overflow—  
my song resound forever,  
for grace will see me welcomed home  
to walk beside my Saviour.  
*By grace I am redeemed,  
by grace I am restored,  
and now I freely walk  
into the arms of Christ my Lord.*

Niki Shepherd, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson  
\*© Copyright 2016 CityAlight Music

**Reading**     Matthew 24:29–35

**Sermon**     Phil Hudson

**1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,**  
once for favoured sinners slain:  
thousand thousand saints attending,  
swell the triumph of his train;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing,  
shall their true Messiah see.

3 Now redemption, long expected,  
see in solemn pomp appear!  
All his saints, by man rejected,  
now shall meet him in the air.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
see the day of God appear.

4 Yea, Amen! Let all adore you  
high on your eternal throne;  
Saviour, take the power and glory,  
claim the kingdom for your own;  
O come quickly, O come quickly,  
O come quickly,  
you shall reign, and you alone!

John Cennick (1718–1755)  
Charles Wesley (1707–1788)  
Martin Madan (1726–1790)

# CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

If you have heard something new or striking about Christianity today and would like to investigate further, please join one of our regular Christianity Explored courses. They provide a friendly, relaxed environment in which to explore more about who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him, as well as to ask any question you like

Courses run both midweek and Sundays, meeting in one of our church buildings in the City

If you would like to join a course, please fill in your contact details below and give it to one of the stewards at the door. Alternatively, email: [reception@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:reception@st-helens.org.uk)

## NEWCOMERS

If you are new to St Helen's and would like someone to contact you about our activities and events, please fill in your details below and give it to one of the Welcome Team

Name:

Contact:

I would like to join a Christianity Explored course

By completing this form you agree to St Helen's Church collecting, storing and using your personal information for the purposes of providing you with details about Christianity Explored and/or about planned events/activities in connection with St Helen's Church

Our privacy policy can be found under: [shb.org.uk/privacypolicy](http://shb.org.uk/privacypolicy)

## TALKS, BIBLE RESOURCES, PRAYER DIARY AND UPCOMING EVENTS

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[reception@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:reception@st-helens.org.uk)  
[www.st-helens.org.uk](http://www.st-helens.org.uk)



Please help us by replacing Bibles on chairs and disposing of any coffee cups. Thank you

**Please pray for:** Jenny, Wendy, Sylvia, Graham, Shan, Ki-Ja, Anna, Ros, Phil.

**Next Sunday:** Gwilym Davies will be speaking on Matthew 24:36–44.

# The king will return—ready or not?

He's coming: what will it be like?

Matthew 24:29–35

**Introduction:** *what will the end be like?*

**Question:** *“when will these things be and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (v3)*

**Answer part 1:** *We live now in the beginning of the birth pains (v4–14)*

**Answer part 2:** *The focus of this age is the proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom (v15–28)*

**Answer part 3:** *And the Son of Man will come imminently (v29–35)*

**1. Jesus is coming—it will be unmissable**

**2. Jesus is coming—there will be contrasting emotions**

**3. Jesus is coming—it will be a cataclysmic dismantling**

**4. Jesus is coming—it's imminent!**

**Conclusion:** *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” (v35)*

## Questions for discussion and reflection:

- Do you believe that the Son of Man really is near? In what ways might we lose sight of this?
- How does understanding what Jesus' return will be like help us live as devoted disciples today?
- What else has particularly struck you that you would like to think and pray about this week?

## NOTICES



**1. Join a small group:** study the Bible regularly, in person, and get to know others in the church family. Central Focus and IGG.

**International Growth Groups (IGG)** are for students and workers who are in London from overseas just for a few years. This year studying Mark's Gospel. Continues Wednesdays. 7–9pm. To sign up, scan the QR code above or email: [internationals@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:internationals@st-helens.org.uk)

**Central Focus** is our Bible study evening for anyone at the 10.30am, this year studying Exodus. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.15–9.30pm, with earlier groups starting at 6.15pm. To sign up, scan the QR code above or email: [centralfocus@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:centralfocus@st-helens.org.uk)

**2. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM):** Monday 29 April, 6.15pm for church reports; 7pm for dinner, 7.30pm for ministry update and prayer. Join us as we consider and pray for church planting. To join online: [shb.org.uk/cfp](http://shb.org.uk/cfp). We will be electing six churchwardens, of whom 2 are standing for the first time: Charles Wakiwaka (4pm) and Gábor Szarka (6pm). Here is a video introducing them: [shb.org.uk/wardens](http://shb.org.uk/wardens). New PCC members standing for election are Andrew Kuiper (10am), Theo Jones (10.30am), Chun-Yi Lee (10.30am/City), Hannah Abraham-Araya (4pm), Julian Bertie (6pm) and Sarah Strain (6pm). The reports and accounts can be found on the chest under the gallery.

**3. Long weekend away:** 3–6 May, at Ashburnham. Jon Gemmell speaking on Leviticus and George Diwakar speaking on Titus. For details and to book: [shb.org.uk/1030LWA24](http://shb.org.uk/1030LWA24) Bookings close 18 April. Any questions, email: [1030am@st-helens.org.uk](mailto:1030am@st-helens.org.uk)

**4. WoW central meeting:** Freedom from judgmentalism in the church, Wednesday 8 May in St Helen's, 9.45–11.15am. Crèche provided at St Helen's. Bring your own lunch to join others after the talk. Any questions, email Janet: [janetmtaylor62@gmail.com](mailto:janetmtaylor62@gmail.com)

**5. If you could ask God one question:** For this year's Week of Talks (21–23 May) we will be answering the questions our friends, colleagues and family want to ask. This is a great opportunity to open up conversations about the good news of Jesus with all kinds of people. The top three questions will each have an evening devoted to them. Use the cards to gather questions and submit them at [shb.org.uk/onequestion](http://shb.org.uk/onequestion)

**6. Associate scheme:** interested in training for Bible teaching ministry? Why not consider applying for the associate scheme. Applications are open, for more information, visit: [shb.org.uk/AssociateScheme](http://shb.org.uk/AssociateScheme) or scan the QR code.



**7. Current vacancies:** for details, visit [shb.org.uk/jobs](http://shb.org.uk/jobs)

**8. The Bible Matters podcast:** a new podcast featuring interviews and conversations with faithful Bible teachers all over the world. Just search *The Bible Matters Podcast* wherever you get your podcasts, or: [biblematters.podbean.com](http://biblematters.podbean.com)

**9. Cake rota.** We'll be starting a cake rota for Sunday mornings after Easter. Baked or store-bought welcome! If you'd like to serve, email Heather: [h.neish@gmail.com](mailto:h.neish@gmail.com)