

CATSHILL METHODIST CHURCH

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

TO MARK THE OPENING OF THE NEW HALL

AND SUITE OF ROOMS

DECEMBER 7th 1991

3.00 p.m.

**"Unless the Lord builds the house,
its builders labour in vain."**

(Psalm 127 v. 1)

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTROIT - CHOIR

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HYMN - TO GOD BE THE GLORY

**To God be the glory! great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son;
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the Life gate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son:
And give Him the glory! Great things He hath done!**

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!.....

**Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.**

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!.....

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PRAYERS - REVD. KENNETH RICHARDSON

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READING - 2 KINGS 22.1-10 - REVD. IAN JOHNSON

HYMN - FATHER YOUR CARE HAS LED US

**Father, your care has led us
To this our opening day;
We meet in glad thanksgiving
To celebrate and pray;
We praise you for your goodness
As now, with one accord,
We make this dedication
To you, our living Lord.**

**For this building we thank you
For all who gave and planned,
For skill in it's construction,
For worker's willing hand
Surrounded by its beauty
Your presence Lord, we feel,
So to our inmost spirits
Your love for us reveal.**

**When here your people gather
To glorify your name,
To look to you for guidance
And all your truth proclaim,
Lord show us your good purpose,
Your will for each make plain,
Renew your strength for service,
Our faith and love sustain.**

**United by your Spirit
And with your help in need,
Secure in your protection,
We'll follow where you lead;
Your kindness is unbounded,
Your love will never cease,
Lord, give us now your blessing
And keep us in your peace.**

(words by kind permission of Alan Ogle)

REFLECTIONS - HOW GOD HAS BLESSED US - MR. DAVE MORGAN

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CHOIR - REJOICE, REJOICE IN THE LORD

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OFFERING - RECEIVED BY MR. ROBERT TRIGGER
(During the offering the Quest Club will sing "Father God")

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SKETCH - JOSIAH - YOUNG PEOPLE

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HYMN - BLESSED CITY, HEAVENLY SALEM

**Blessed city, heavenly Salem,
Vision dear of peace and love,
Who of living stones art builded
In the height of heaven above,
And by angel hosts encircled
As a bride dost earthward move!**

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever,
And her confidence alone.**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear thy servants as they pray;
And thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls away.**

cont.

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
What they ask of thee to gain,
What they gain from thee for ever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in thy glory
Evermore with thee to reign**

**Laud and honour to the Father,
Laud and honour to the Son,
Laud and honour to the Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One,
Consubstantial, co-eternal,
While unending ages run.**

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ADDRESS - REVD. STEVE SINGLETON

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PRAYERS - REVD. PHILIP REES

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HAND OVER OF KEYS FROM MR. HUGH OWENS (ARCHITECT)

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PROCESSION INTO NEW BUILDINGS

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CHORUS - I WILL ENTER HIS GATES

**I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter His courts with praise,
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad, He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad**

DEDICATION - REVD. STEVE SINGLETON

Beloved in the Lord, we rejoice that God has put it in the hearts of His people to build to His glory. We now meet to consecrate it and set it apart for God's sovereign purpose. Let us then solemnly dedicate this hall and its suite of rooms to their sacred use.

Prayer (people respond with the underlined text):

**To the glory of God, who calls us by His grace
And to His only begotten Son, who loves us and gave Himself for us,
And to the Holy Spirit who inspires and sanctifies us.**

We dedicate this building

**For the celebration of family life,
For the teaching and guiding of the young,
For the developing of the people of God.**

We dedicate this building

**For the comfort of those who mourn,
For the offering of friendship to the lonely,
For the support of the elderly.**

We dedicate this building

**For the sharing of good news,
For the unity of the whole people of God,
For the service of the community,
For the extension of the Kingdom of God.**

We dedicate this building

**In gratitude for the labours of all God's people,
In loving remembrance of those who have finished the course,
In thanksgiving for all God's goodness.**

We dedicate this building and ourselves to His great purpose

Amen.

VOTE OF THANKS - MRS. SHEILA COLLINS

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HYMN - THIS, THIS IS THE GOD WE ADORE

**This, this is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,
Whose love is as great as His power,
And neither knows measure nor end.**

**'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.**

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BENEDICTION

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(Refreshments)

Acknowledgements

It is only appropriate, on this order of service, to thank all those who have helped make this dream come true - a dream that first started in the 1960's when the existing church was planned and built, but the extra youth facilities not added due to various concerns about the funds to pay for them.

The dream was re-established in 1988 when the first set of plans was drawn up to replace the old (and ostensibly temporary) youth hall. After 7 different sets of plans and designs had been reviewed, the Steering Committee finally agreed on the outline for the new premises, at a then estimated cost of about £180,000. In April 1989 a youth concert, which raised £200, set of the new building fund, which was officially launched in October of that year.

Since that date, money has continued to appear from such a variety of sources, too numerous to mention, from refilling Smartie tubes with pennies (having first eaten the Smarties of course), to events raising up to, and even over £1000. There have been sponsored walks, silences, and games evenings; concerts; auctions of abilities; garden parties; competitions - even one to produce a building fund logo. Individuals have made things and sold them; bought things (often with the building fund logo on them) and resold them.

We have written to many companies and trusts, some of whom have generously donated, and our grateful thanks go to all of them, especially the Joseph Rank Benevolent Trust, who donated £39,000.

Many of our own church members, and friends have given generously to the fund, sometimes even sacrificially. Others have given in terms of their work. The roof was donated, as was the kitchen fitting. Our humble thanks to all of them.

Many have given time, from calculating the finances, to organising the painting of the new building; from planning the project, to making the curtains. Our thanks are extended to all who have given of their time.

We would also like to thank our builders Kadem Construction; our Architects Owens and Parker; and our Quantity Surveyors Silk and Frazier, along with the other professional and trades people who have been involved in the project.

Our dream has now come true. But the major praise must go to God, who has guided us through these years, and provided us so regularly with facilities and funds. There can be no doubt that the way this project has gone from strength to strength can not be put down to coincidence - we have seen God's hand in all we have done - and therefore all the praise is to Him. Who would have thought that at this point in time we would have progressed so well, not only with the physical construction, but also with the fund raising? No-one, without God's help.

The Lord has built His house, - the labours have not been in vain. Thanks be to God for all His gifts to us.