



# Induction of Mark Higgins

As an elder

Free Grace Baptist Church

Preacher : Pastor Tom Allen

28<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **Hymn 1**

### **1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously  
reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend  
thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love He befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before  
Him.  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

## **Preliminary remarks to set the occasion.**

### **Hymn 2**

GREAT is the gospel of our glorious God,  
where mercy met the anger of God's rod;  
a penalty was paid and pardon bought,  
and sinners lost at last to Him were brought:

***O let the praises of my heart be Thine,  
for Christ has died that I may call Him mine,  
that I may sing with those who dwell above,  
adoring, praising Jesus, King of love.***

Great is the mystery of godliness,  
great is the work of God's own holiness;  
it moves my soul, and causes me to long  
for greater joys than to the earth belong:

The Spirit vindicated Christ our Lord,  
and angels sang with joy and sweet accord;  
the nations heard, a dark world flamed with light –  
when Jesus rose in glory and in might:

*William Vernon Higham, b. 1926 © Author*

## **Reading – Titus 1: 1-16**

### **Sermon**

## **Vows and laying on of hands**

### **To Mark**

Q - Do you believe that God has called you to take up the office of elder at Free Grace Belvedere?

**I do**

Q - Do you promise, in dependence upon God's grace, to care faithfully for and to teach and lead the flock of God at Free Grace Belvedere and endeavour in your own life by prayer and behaviour to be an example to believers?

**I do**

Q - Do you wholeheartedly accept the churches articles of faith, its doctrines as outlined in the 1966 Affirmation and 1689 Confession of faith and are you committed to their propagation?

**With God's help yes.**

### **To the church**

Just as elders have responsibilities towards the church so the people of God have obligations to their elders.

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labour among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

#### **Hebrews 13:17**

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Q - I ask you, the members of this church, whether you accept this man as an elder and whether you will receive the word of God which he will teach, and support him by encouraging him in his labours and praying for God's blessing upon his work?

**We will**

#### **Scripture charge:**

##### **1 Peter 5:2-4**

**2** Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **3** nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; **4** and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

**Prayer – incl. laying on of hands**

**Pastor Tom Allen**

**Elder Mike Wayman**

**Elder Paul Orchard**

**Hymn 3**

FACING a task unfinished,  
that drives us to our knees,  
a need that, undiminished,  
rebukes our slothful ease,  
we, who rejoice to know You,  
renew before Your throne  
the solemn pledge we owe You  
to go and make You known.

2 Where other lords beside You  
hold their unhindered sway,  
where forces that defied You  
defy You still today,  
with none to heed their crying  
for life, and love, and light,  
unnumbered souls are dying,  
and pass into the night.

*We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ The Lord*

3 We bear the torch that flaming  
fell from the hands of those  
who gave their lives proclaiming  
that Jesus died and rose.  
Ours is the same commission,  
the same glad message ours,  
fired by the same ambition,  
to You we yield our powers.

*We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ The Lord*

4 O Father who sustained them,  
O Spirit who inspired,  
Saviour, whose love constrained them  
to toil with zeal untired,  
from cowardice defend us,  
from lethargy awake!  
Forth on Your errands send us  
to labour for Your sake.

*We go to all the world  
With kingdom hope unfurled  
No other name has power to save  
But Jesus Christ The Lord*

## **BENEDICTION**



