

## SERVICE OUTLINE

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Rob Bridgewater

**SONGS** Praise my soul the king of heaven  
Come People of the Risen King

### CONFESSION

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

### CHILDREN'S ITEM

Nikki Kennett

**SONG** You're coming back

5-11s leave for children's church in the scout hut (they will be brought back to the hall after the service). There are also separate crèches / groups for 0-4s in the hall.

### BIBLE READING

Jo Yianni

Malachi 3:6–18 p.961  
(Chinese Bibles p.771)

### SERMON

Ed Pennington

*Extended sermon notes in simple English are available on the welcome desk for anyone who would find them helpful.*

**SONGS** Jesus I my cross have taken  
My hope is built (cornerstone)

### PRAYERS

John Yianni

**SONG** Great is your faithfulness

### CLOSING PRAYER

## MALACHI 3:6–18

### SERMON NOTES

Introduction—the problem of half-heartedness

Return to God and be accepted

Give to God and be blessed

Honour God and be remembered

## GROWTH GROUPS & FAMILY TABLETALK

Some growth groups meet during the week over the summer. Part of what we do is to help each other think through more deeply what we learn on Sundays—and then be ready to change as a result.

1. What struck, challenged or encouraged you in the teaching from God's word on Sunday?
2. When / how have you seen half-heartedness or feeling distant from God in your own life?
3. What does it mean that God does not change? How do verse 6 and 7 apply this truth?
4. Instead of turning back to God, the initial reaction in Malachi seems to be to talk back, disputing the challenges that are made. In what ways can we have self-justification as an unhelpful block to repentance?

5. In what ways were Israel robbing God? How will it look for us to fail to give the "whole" when it comes to our money, time, energy?
6. What promise does v10-12 have, and what will this mean for us today?
7. What are our equivalents of the "harsh things" said against God in v 13-15?
8. How can we encourage each other like v16? What promise is made in v17-18?

And here is a question for parents and children to discuss over a meal time one day...

How can we encourage each other not to be half-hearted as Christians?