**SAPLC Wednesday Service**

**17th June 2020**

**From Centuries, by Thomas Traherne**

**Century 1**

**Section 28**

Your enjoyment of the world is never right, till every morning you awake in Heaven; see yourself in your Father's Palace; and look upon the skies, the earth, and the air as Celestial Joys : having such a reverend esteem of all, as if you were among the Angels. The bride of a monarch, in her husband's chamber, hath no such causes of delight as you.

**Section 29**

You never enjoy the world aright, till the Sea itself floweth in your veins, till you are clothed with the heavens, and crowned with the stars : and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world, and more than so, because men are in it which are every one sole heirs as well as you. Till you can sing and rejoice and delight in God, as misers do in gold, and Kings in sceptres, you never enjoy the world.

**Century 3**

**Section 3** *(A description of his boyhood)*

The com was orient and immortal wheat, which never should be reaped, nor was ever sown. I thought it had stood from everlasting to everlasting. The dust and stones Of the street were as precious as gold : the gates were at first the end Of the world. The green trees when I saw them first through one of the gates transported and ravished me, their sweetness and unusual beauty made my heart to leap, and almost mad with ecstasy, they were such strange and wonderful things. The Men! 0 what venerable and reverend creatures did the aged seem! Immortal Cherubins! And 'young men glittering and sparkling Angels, and maids strange seraphic pieces of life and beauty! Boys and

girls tumbling in the street, and playing, were moving jewels. I knew not that they were born or should die; But all things abided etemally as they were in their proper places. Eternity was manifest in the I.ight of the Day, and something infinite behind everything appeared : which talked with my expectation and moved my desire. The city seemed to stand in Eden, or to be built in Heaven. The streets were mine, the temple was mine, the people were mine, their clothes and gold and silver were mine, as much as their sparkling eyes, fair skins and ruddy faces. The skies were mine, and so were the sun and moon and stars, and all the World was mine; and I the only spectator and I enjoyer of it. I know no churlish properties, nor bounds, nor divisions : but all properties and divisions were mine : all treasures and the possessors of them. So that with much ado I was corrupted, and made to learn the dirty devices of this world. Which now I unlearn, and I become, as it were, a little child again that I may enter into the Kingdom of God.