

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021



One of a series of joint services  
for the Church of Scotland  
congregations in the town,  
on the theme of



Missional discipleship as a way of life

This act of worship has been prepared to allow us all to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it. This morning we focus on signs and wonders.

We thank all involved in creating and distributing this service,  
and praise God for his unchanging character and unfailing love.

This order of service is for you to use as you are able:

some of you may wish simply to read it, whether silently or aloud.

Others may wish to listen, and even join in with the singing: just click on the links.

If you want to join in the whole service, <https://youtu.be/pcb0NXp5PNA>

And if you would like to listen to just the sermon and a prayer, dial 01968 700121:  
there will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.

NB The phone recording of the service is an abridged version –  
the full service is available on YouTube.

### **WELCOME (John Urquhart, StM)**

Welcome to our joint service for the Church of Scotland in Penicuik.

Today in our Holy Habits series we will be looking at the role of signs and wonders.  
Let us worship God.

### **HYMN: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

Watch video <https://youtu.be/8IFBrVDU0aU>

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing.  
Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him for his faithfulness!

Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.

In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
widely as his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
ye behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise with us the God of grace!

*CCLI Song # 7125791 | Henry Francis Lyte | John Goss | Liv Chapman | Philip Percival | © Words: Public Domain | Music: 2018 Percival, Philip (Admin. by Philip Gordon Percival) | Chapman, Liv | emumusic.com*

### **PRAYER (Chris Black, PNK)**

Eternal God,  
you do not need our praise.  
The world itself tells of your glory:  
sunrise and birdsong, and ruggedness of landscape,  
the randomness of rain,  
beauty for the eye, nourishment for the body, music for the soul—  
these all speak of your goodness these honour your name.  
You do not need our praise.

Other places can do it better with finer music or fewer words,  
with centuries of tradition or buildings of rare beauty.

Other people can do it better,  
where two or three are gathered  
who live in poverty or under threat,  
and who, despite all that oppresses them,  
rejoice to be called your own.

What can we add  
by the way of magnificence or testimony  
when these are more eloquent?

You do not need our praise, but we need to praise you.  
It is the yearning, the restlessness

which you have planted in us.  
It is our desire for a true home  
and unconditional acceptance that brings us here.  
All the rumours we have heard about you are true:  
you love, you forgive, you transform.  
And you know us, oh, how you know us.  
You perceive what in us needs to be loved,  
what in us needs to be forgiven,  
and what in us needs to be changed.  
We need no more words, just penitence.

*Lord, have mercy on us*

*Christ, have mercy on us.*

*Lord, have mercy on us.*

These are the words of Jesus.

They are strong and true, so believe them:

'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness.'

'Go in peace; your sins are forgiven: Come, each one, and follow me.'

Now, God, help us to live as a forgiven people—

visibly different, gloriously free, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE READING (John Urquhart, StM)**

Before the events described in our reading, Peter and John have brought healing to a poor man, lame since birth, who sat begging outside the temple. Peter says to him, "I don't have any silver or gold! But I'll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus the Messiah from Nazareth, get up and start walking."

Peter takes him by the hand and helps him up. The man's feet and ankles become strong, and he jumps up and starts walking, jumping and praising God. Peter uses the opportunity to speak to the astonished people in the temple precincts about Jesus, saying: "Faith in Jesus made this man completely well while everyone was watching." The authorities arrest Peter and John and the next day examine them at a meeting of the religious leaders of the nation.

In the reading we hear this 'good deed' referred to as 'a sign', effectively pointing to something outside itself-- to the presence and power of God through Jesus. Later in the reading, we'll hear those first followers of Jesus praying to God: "Stretch out your hand to bring healing and enable *signs and wonders* to be performed through the name of Jesus, your holy servant." Signs and wonders are both ways of referring to what we in the West have learned to call miracles, sometimes dismissively. A *sign* appeals to our understanding; a *wonder* evokes a more emotional response, appealing to our imagination and sense of worship. See if you can spot these words in our reading.

**Acts 4: 5-31 (Common English Bible)**

**Reader 1:** The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?"

**Reader 2:** Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders, are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved."

**Reader 1:** The council was caught by surprise by the confidence with which Peter and John spoke. After all, they understood that these apostles were uneducated and inexperienced. They also recognized that they had been followers of Jesus. However, since the healed man was standing with Peter and John before their own eyes, they had no rebuttal. After ordering them to wait outside, the council members began to confer with each other. "What should we do with these men? Everyone living in Jerusalem is aware of the sign performed through them. It's obvious to everyone and we can't deny it. To keep it from spreading further among the people, we need to warn them not to speak to anyone in this name." When they called Peter and John back, they demanded that they stop all speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus.

**Reader 2:** Peter and John responded, "It's up to you to determine whether it's right before God to obey you rather than God. As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

**Reader 1:** They threatened them further, then released them. Because of public support for Peter and John, they couldn't find a way to punish them. Everyone was praising God for what had happened, because the man who had experienced this sign of healing was over 40 years old.

**Reader 2:** After their release, Peter and John returned to the brothers and sisters and reported everything the chief priests and elders had said. They listened, then lifted their voices in unison to God, "Master, you are the one who created the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. You are the one who spoke by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

Why did the Gentiles rage,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth took their stand  
and the rulers gathered together as one  
against the Lord and against his Christ.

Indeed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with Gentiles and Israelites, did gather in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and plan had already determined would happen. Now, Lord, take note of their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with complete confidence. Stretch out your hand to bring healing and enable signs and wonders to be performed through the name of Jesus, your holy servant.” After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking God’s word with confidence.

*Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible*

**VIDEO SHORTS:** *Have you had any experiences of God’s love and power which helped you tell someone else about the hope you have in Jesus?*

**Fiona Charleson (PNK); Joyce MacLean (PSH); Margaret & Bill Webster (StM);**

**HYMN: The King of love my shepherd is**

Watch video <https://youtu.be/OayS6fUP8iw>

The King of love my shepherd is

Whose goodness faileth never

I nothing lack if I am his

And he is mine forever

And he is mine forever

Where streams of living water flow

My ransomed soul he leadeth

And where the verdant pastures grow

With food celestial feedeth

*Never failing, ruler of my heart*

*Everlasting, lover of my soul*

*On the mountain high*

*Or in the valley low*

*The King of love my shepherd is*

*The King of love my shepherd is*

Lost and foolish, oft I strayed

But yet in love he sought me

And on his shoulder gently laid

And home, rejoicing, brought me

In death's dark vale I fear no ill

With thee, dear Lord, beside me

Thy rod and staff my comfort still

Thy cross before to guide me

*Never failing, ruler of my heart  
Everlasting, lover of my soul  
On the mountain high  
Or in the valley low  
The King of love my shepherd is  
The King of love my shepherd is*

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!  
*Never failing, ruler of my heart  
Everlasting, lover of my soul  
On the mountain high  
Or in the valley low  
The King of love my shepherd is  
The King of love my shepherd is*

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise  
Within your house forever  
Within your house forever

*Words & Music: Adam Palmer, Jonathan Smith, Matthew Hein, Stephanie Kulla, Stuart **Garrard**  
Arranged by Coffey Ministries; Vocals: Steph Coffey, Abigail Chetta, Matthew Clemons  
Instrumentals: Carol Anne Clemons (accordion), Emilee Nelson (mandolin), Stephen Lynn (bass), Aaron  
Coffey (guitar), Stephanie Coffey (piano), Matthew Clemons (bohdran); Video: Ryan McCarty*

**SHORT ADDRESS:** (John Urquhart, StM)

**HYMN: We cannot measure how you heal**

Watch video <https://youtu.be/exr0oxZwZKA>

We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help  
and some have come to make amends.  
Your hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain,  
and make your broken people whole.

*John Bell and Graham Maule ©1989 WGRG, Iona Community, Govan, Glasgow G51 3UU  
Sung at St Alban's Church, Bristol*

## **PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES** (Rosie Townsley, PSH)

*In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.*

Loving God, we thank you for the huge diversity of people who share this world. We pray for peace in our troubled world. We ask you to inspire and encourage those who lead this, and all nations. We pray that in all areas of conflict, seeds of hope may be sown by men and women of courage and faith.

Gracious God, we pray for those in the dark places of this world, where violence terrorises the people, where hunger is prevalent, where there are people for whom hope is running low. We pray for countries where demands for individual freedoms and rights are crushed and where activists disappear without trace. We pray for the work of all engaged in humanitarian work amongst refugees and migrants. We pray that the covid vaccination will be made available in the poorest countries through support from those who have ready access to supplies. May your Spirit flow like fresh water over them, bringing hope for the future.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray for KIP, for your church in Penicuik. We pray for our ministers and elders and for all those who enrich our worship, provide pastoral care and reach out into the community. Father even in these times when so much is done virtually we pray our churches will be places to find fellowship, friendship, security and inspiration. Help us to be generous with our time, with our love and so care for those who are in need of our support. Empower your church by your Spirit so that signs and wonders, your glory, may be manifest through us in our community.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of Mercy, we pray for all who suffer in our community. For those who cannot see a way through broken relationships, difficult financial situations, emotional darkness. For the sick, the housebound, the desperately lonely. We pray for all those who care and minister to them, whether family, friends or professionals and we ask that you give to them your gifts of patience, compassion and understanding. We commit to your loving care, those who are in any kind of need.

Loving God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, lead us into the coming week and help us to recognise that you are with us in our sorrows and difficult decisions and in times of joy and laughter.

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **HYMN: We seek your kingdom**

Watch video <https://youtu.be/2Lp2mMpSa1E>

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere  
We long for heaven's demonstration here  
Jesus your light shine bright for all to see  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Before all things, in him were all things made  
Inspiring culture, media, and trade  
May all our work serve your economy  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Peace, truth, and justice reigning everywhere  
With us be present in our public square  
Fill all who lead with your integrity  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged  
Failing to scribe your heart on history's page  
Make us again what we were made to be  
Transform, revive, and heal society

Faithful to govern ever may we be  
Selfless in service, loving constantly  
In everything may your authority  
Transform, revive, and heal society

*CCLI Licence: 7078309; Melody: Eventide (Abide with me) by William Henry Monk (Public Domain)*

*Lyrics: Noel Robinson, Andy Flannagan, Graham Hunter © 2016 Downwardly Mobile Music, Nu Image Music, Graham Hunter. Used with permission*



## **A PARTING PRAYER (John Urquhart, StM)**

May the Son who redeems us,  
the Spirit who renews us,  
and the Father who receives us—  
for so great is his love—  
be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine upon us. **Amen.**

All hymns/songs used on this sheet used by permission: CCL Licence No 974355  
Scottish Charity No SC005838

*The following congregations were involved in this service:*

- PNK: Penicuik North
- PSH: Penicuik South with Howgate
- StM: Penicuik St Mungo's

**Next KIP service: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August - Breaking Bread**