

Sunday 10th January 2021



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



This morning's act of worship on the theme of *Serving* has been prepared to allow us all to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it.

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, you'll find it here <https://youtu.be/3VAkW0xk1dE>

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.

N.B. The phone recording of the sermon is an abridged version: the full sermon is available on YouTube.

Please note: for technical reasons the links given are not to the versions of the songs used in the service, as found on the Youtube site.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Rev Graham Astles (PNK)

SONG: Jesus, all for Jesus

You can watch a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1Wa2msOq9c>

All I am and have and ever hope to be.

Jesus, all for Jesus

All I am and have and ever hope to be.

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans,

I surrender these into your hands.

All of my ambitions, hopes and plans,

I surrender these into your hands.

For it's only in your will that I am free.

For it's only in your will that I am free.
Jesus, all for Jesus
All I am and have and ever hope to be.

Robin Mark © 1990 Word Music / Adm. by Copycare.

WELCOME: Graham Astles

PRAYER OF APPROACH: Graham Astles

Ending with The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Strengthen us through the trials of temptation,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen**

ALL AGE TALK: Rev Peter Wood (PS&H)

SONG: Change my heart, O God

You can watch a video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEtshWFE6-w4>

Change my heart, oh God.
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God.
May I be like You.

Change my heart, oh God.
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, oh God.
May I be like You.

You are the potter;
I am the clay.
Mould me and make me.
This is what I pray:

Change my heart, oh God.
Make it ever true.
Change my heart. oh God.
May I be like You.

BIBLE READINGS

Reader: Isobel Alford (PS&H)

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Ephesians 2:4-10

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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SERMON: A Habit of Service - Graham Astles

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Graham Astles

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION (Joan Cape PStM)

Gracious and ever loving God, we bring to you now our prayers for other people and for ourselves. We thank you that we can come to you in this way, in the knowledge that you listen to us and in your time respond to us. We are journeying through difficult days, and the certainty that you walk each step of the way with us brings us much reassurance – for this also we thank you.

We pray for those who are working day and night to help maintain the health of the nation: our doctors and nurses, in and out of hospitals, the ambulance drivers and paramedics, the healthcare workers, the pharmacists. We pray for the people carrying out tests, and for the scientists striving to develop better ways of dealing with this virus. We pray for our school and nursery teachers, along with those engaged in child care – all of whose contributions are essential to enabling those key workers to carry out their responsibilities. Sustain each one, according to their need.₃

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are lonely and frightened, told to stay at home yet yearning for just a few minutes' company, or for the comfort of a gentle touch. We ask that you will be for them a very real presence. And we pray for those who are reaching out to such as those: the many volunteers undertaking shopping, the collection and delivery of prescriptions, the dog walking – bless them and keep them safe as they serve their neighbours in these ways. Along with them we ask your blessing on the vast army of people dealing with all aspects of maintaining the supply of food and necessary goods: the lorry drivers, the people working in our shops, and the people dealing with the click and collect points and the home deliveries. We ask that you would keep them safe, and that they would know the value of what they do.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those struggling to work from home, often with inadequate equipment, poor heating, and in need of a word of support from a colleague. Those problems are much the same for those dealing with home schooling – parents and children alike – and compounded for the many whose home has to serve as work place, schoolroom and nursery at one and the same time. And we pray too for those who have no work, no money, little hope – but still have to try to live from day to day. The stresses and strains are enormous – Lord, we pray protection on all whose lives have been turned upside down by the events of the past year.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we bring you these prayers not just for ourselves but for the whole world, for we know that this pandemic does not respect any boundaries. We think of countries where there is little basic infrastructure to support an event such as this, where levels of poverty and human need are so great that even small disruptions can elevate things frighteningly quickly to crisis level. And so we lift up to you all those in government – asking that party politics, factions, pride, and the desire for personal glory be set aside, and that all would work together for the good not just of their own country but of mankind. And we cannot omit to mention the United States of America: Father, we ask that common sense would prevail and that a spirit of unity would fall upon that land.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

As we bring these prayers to you, we ask you to remind us always that none of us can be a disinterested bystander as the events of life unfold. We all have our part to play, through what we do, and say, and think. Gracious and ever loving God, as we offer our lives to you, we ask that you will help us always to be open to your Spirit in our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

And these things we pray in the name of your son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

HYMN: I will offer up my life

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth,
Pouring out the oil of love as my worship to You.
In surrender I must give my ev'ry part.
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.

*Jesus, what can I give? what can I bring
To so faithful a Friend to so loving a King?
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung
As a praise of Your name, for the things You have done?
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,
Of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

You deserve my ev'ry breath
For You've paid the great cost,
Giving up Your life to death
Even death on a cross.
You took all my shame away.
There defeated my sin.
Opened up the gates of heav'n
And have beckoned me in.

Jesus, what can I give? what can I bring....

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BENEDICTION: Graham Astles

Finishing with: And all God's people said: **"Amen"**

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The following congregations were involved in this service:

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