

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 11th July 2021

This act of worship has been prepared to allow us to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it.

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

Our preacher today is Fiona Devoy, a reader in the Church of Scotland.

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/NPeNmnF9jME> or follow the link which you'll find on our website: www.stmungos.freeuk.com .

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.

WELCOME to St Mungo's: whether you are joining us from Penicuik or from further away, we pray that you will find blessing in this service.

Our **call to worship** comes from Psalm 91.

Leader: Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

All: He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Leader: You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

All: He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Leader: He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.

All: He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Amen

Let us worship God, as we hear a version of Psalm 91.

Psalm 91

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZLOfP9f4mY>

The one whose dwelling is with God Most High

In the Almighty's shadow safe will rest.

"He is my refuge," I say of the Lord.

"My fortress and my God: in him I trust."

Surely he I saves you from the fowler's snare,
and rescues you from deadly pestilence.
Under his wings a refuge you will find.
His faithfulness will be your strong defence.

*You will not fear the terror of night,
nor dread the arrows in the day,
nor pestilence that in the darkness stalks,
nor plague that carries all away.*

No harm will touch you though a thousand fall,
should ten thousand die at your right hand.
Your eyes will look,
and you will see the wicked punished as their ways demand.

But if you make God Most High your dwelling place,
Yes, the Lord who is my refuge sure
no evil then will ever fall on you,
nor calamity come near your door.

*For he will charge his angels with your care
to guard your footsteps on the way he has shown.
They will uphold and bear you in their arms,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.*

Upon the mighty lion you will tread;
the cobra you'll overcome, and kill.
Your feet will trample down the king of beasts;
The serpent will be crushed beneath your heel.
"Because he loves me," says the sovereign Lord,
"I'll rescue and deliver him from harm.
Since he acknowledges my holy name,
I'll protect him with my mighty arm.

*He'll call on me, and I will answer him;
With him in troubled times I'll be.
I will deliver him and honour him.
Long will he live and my salvation see.
Long will he live and my salvation see."*

The one whose dwelling is with God Most High
In the Almighty's shadow safe will rest.
"He is my refuge," I say of the Lord.
"My fortress and my God: in him I trust.
My fortress and my God: in him I trust."

*Words from Sing Psalms, published by The Free Church of Scotland
Music: John Alexander Wilson*

PRAYER (read by Neil Cape)

Lord God, who made us out of love, we come today from all our concerns, in the midst of our chaotic thoughts, to focus on your goodness and your holiness. We are ever changing, and the world about us is ever changing, but you are the still centre in our world, the same yesterday, today and forever.

As we read the words in Psalm 91, written many centuries ago, in a different time, we have the same faith that no matter what challenges we face, no matter how uncertain the future may seem, you will be at our side. We believe that you are the one who saves us from everything that we fear most, in the shifting sands of life, such evils as loneliness and bereavement, illness, old age and even death itself.

We thank you for the gift of Jesus who showed us what it is like to live a holy life, how to be a person of integrity, whose words and actions are the same. You created us to be better than we are, putting others before ourselves, yet we very rarely manage to do this. Forgive us our faults and failings, when we let injustice flourish, when we close our eyes to the needs of others, when we put our own comfort before the needs of those around us. Yet you forgive us, again and again, out of your great loving kindness. Lord, we are a work in progress – make us more like you every day, little by little, inch by inch, through the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Open our eyes and our hearts to his presence, as we say the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SONG: Faithful One, so unchanging

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqK-UnsRTFI>

Faithful one, so unchanging.
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on you.
I call out to you, again and again;
I call out to you, again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm
Your love is the anchor.
My hope is in You alone.

Author: Brian Doerksen Copyright: © 1989 Vineyard Songs and ION Publishing

THE STORY SO FAR

We have been following the story of Saul and David, as set out in the book we know as 1 Samuel. King Saul has followed his own ways and has rejected God's ways. He has become an evil man and wishes to eliminate all rivals to his throne, notably David. God has abandoned Saul and left him to his murderous behaviour. King Saul pursues David, whom he wants to kill out of jealousy for his popularity and prowess in battle. By now David is described as an outlaw with a small band of loyal men, whom Saul is doggedly trying to hunt down, with the intention of killing him.

Throughout this ordeal, one man has been true to David in friendship - Jonathan, Saul's son and heir. He helps David to escape the murderous clutches of King Saul on several occasions, and the two make a pact, where Jonathan will be true to David in friendship and support, and David in turn promises to make Jonathan his second in command when he becomes king after Saul. This agreement is based on a strong and trusting relationship, as Jonathan is the rightful heir, who gives up this position willingly.

We join the story this week in the desert of En Gedi, where David has retreated to hide. Saul had to break off his pursuit of David to deal with a threat from the Philistines, but has returned to continue his persecution of his perceived enemy, David.

BIBLE READINGS

1 Samuel 24, 1-22 (New International Version)

Reader: Mary Paterson

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. ⁶ He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's

anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.” With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.⁹ He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord’s anointed.’ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.

“Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? May the Lord be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”

When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the Lord delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the Lord reward you well for the way you treated me today. I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. Now swear to me by the Lord that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.”

So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Matthew 5 v 1-10 (NIV)

Reader: Gordon MacDonald

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

SHORT REFLECTION: A man of honour

HYMN: Cornerstone

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/tFOJba6xEZ4>

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone:
weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil,
my anchor holds within the veil.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless I stand before the throne,
faultless I stand before the throne.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone:
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.*

*Words & Music by Edward Mote (1797-1874), Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin and Reuben Morgan
© 2012 Hillsong Music Publishing.*

*Video by Dave Lowe and the Manor Church of England Academy Worship Band and Community Choir
during Covid-19 Social Distancing.*

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

Joan Cape

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you love us, and that we can come to you as a child to a loving father. Thank you that you listen to us as we pour out to you our thoughts and wishes, our hopes and fears – and that you respond to us in love. Thank you that we are reminded of the care you put into the whole of creation, into its making and into its looking after. Thank you too for giving us eyes and ears to see and hear the beauty of the world around us, and to experience the awe of looking up into a starry sky, and the immensity of the universe.

We bring you our world, seeking to share your compassion and mercy. We are aware that people around us are troubled by worries or grief, and we ask you to help us know how to respond. We are aware also that many don't know you as a loving father: we need your help as we seek to lead them to a true understanding of who you are.

We pray for those known to us who are ill, in body or in mind, or anxious, or reeling from sudden bad news of family members or friends: we bring them before you now in a few moments of silence, asking that they would cling to you as to a rock, in their time of trouble.

Father, across the world there are many who live in very different conditions from ourselves: they too know illness, anxiety and grief, life threatening disease poverty or lack of security. And many who are Christians like us, suffer persecution or live in fear, because of their faith: we ask you to be close to them and to protect them - be for them a very clear refuge and fortress.

We pray too for all those for whom Jesus is totally irrelevant, who either don't know, or don't care about his message: the message of love, hope and new life that you offer to each one of us.

And we pray for your church, here in Penicuik and across the world, as it seeks to make that message known. In these uncertain times we pray that your people will be reunited in their worship and service to our community, and that fresh doors will be opened that will allow us to encourage in others a desire for a life made new in relationship with you, a life filled with your love, hope, peace and joy, a life with you as its sure foundation.

All of these prayers we bring to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus.

Amen

SONG: He came down that we may have love

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLLiMcxOmmE>

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have power;
He came down that we may have power;
He came down that we may have power,
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope,
Hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.

Cameroon traditional

THE BLESSING, said together:

Joan Cape

Let us go now, in peace and hope, to serve the Lord.
May God the Father make us holy in his love;
May God the Son enrich us with his grace;
May God the Holy Spirit strengthen us with joy;
May the Lord bless us and keep us,
Now and always, in eternal life.

Amen.

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

Next week's preacher:

John Urquhart

Continuing in 1 Samuel