

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 14th March 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.

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, follow the link which you'll find on our website: www.stmungo.freeuk.com . Video <https://youtu.be/HxVbyLLhBxg>

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. We are here to worship God on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Our call to worship is based on words from Psalm 86.

Leader: Teach me your way, O Lord,
that I may walk in your truth.

All: Give me an undivided heart,
to revere your name.

From Psalm 86: 11 (NRSV)

HYMN: Purify my heart

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/FBvRf74DnP8>

Purify my heart, let me be as gold and precious silver;
purify my heart, let me be as gold, pure gold.

*Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire
is to be holy,
set apart for you, Lord;
I choose to be holy,
set apart for you, my Master,
ready to do your will.*

Purify my heart, cleanse me from within and make me holy;
purify my heart, cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

Refiner's fire, my heart's one desire...

Brian Doerksen © 1990 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing; sung by Chris Brunelle

PRAYER

God our Father,
teach us your ways
and we will walk in your truth;
Give us an undivided heart,
an undistracted, wholehearted loyalty to you,
that we may revere your name,
that we may live in a way
that is conscious you are there,
and that seeks to honour you in all we do.

An undivided heart is what we yearn for;
but so often we feel pulled one way or another;
sometimes we choose wrong ways,
harsh words, bitter thoughts,
or we long after things that are harmful for us.

Sometimes we're drawn
to seemingly innocuous things
that eat up all our time
for drawing closer to you.

We confess our sins to you now....

We thank you that in your new covenant in Jesus—
Jesus, who gave himself on the cross for us—
you undertake to change our hearts
and to write your ways, your law of love,
deep in our being.

Lord, you have mercy upon all,
so take away from us our sins,
and mercifully kindle in us
the fire of your Holy Spirit.

Take away from us a heart of stone,
and give us a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore you,
a heart to delight in you,
to follow and enjoy you,
for Christ's sake.

Amen

Based on Psalm 86:11 and a prayer of Ambrose of Milan (ca 340-397)

HYMN: Spirit of God, you know my inmost being

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

Spirit of God, you know my inmost being;
all of my life is open to your sight;
help me to take to heart your probing counsel;
help me to yield to love's all-searching light.

My love, I know, is rarely what it should be;
my joy is all too shallow at its best;
my peace is fragile as a flower's petals;
my patience crumbles at the slightest test;

Self-interest haunts my kindness and my goodness;
seldom is true integrity my goal;
I lack my humble, gentle Lord's demeanour;
old habits undermine my self-control.

Spirit of God, beyond the flaws and failures
you know the person Christ would have me be.
Come, plough and prune, and make me fit for service;
come, plant and nurture your good fruit in me.

© Martin E. Leckebusch; Adm. The Jubilate Group

Video from <https://www.jubilate.co.uk/songs/spirit-of-god-you-know-my-inmost-being>

THE STORY SO FAR

Saul is on an expedition to find his father's lost donkeys and they're nowhere to be found. He's ready to go home but *instead* he takes up his servant's suggestion to go and consult the man who has visions. The seer might tell them where the donkeys are. So, Saul for the first time encounters the prophet Samuel, who treats him with special honours, without fully explaining why he is doing this.

The Lord has revealed to Samuel that he is to *anoint* Saul to be the ruler of God's people. He is to be the one who will rescue them from the Philistines. So the next day, Samuel secretly pours a flask of olive oil on Saul's head, telling him plainly that God has appointed him to be ruler over Israel. As Saul turns to leave, his heart is changed by God, and later the Spirit of God comes upon him powerfully. He joins a prophetic group in Gibeah, his hometown, and shows he has a prophetic gift.

However, what Samuel has told him about the kingship, he keeps to himself, probably because it is not a safe thing to tell: at Gibeah the Philistines have a garrison.

There must come a day when this secret must be revealed to all Israel, that the one the Lord has chosen might be presented and acclaimed by the people. But when the day arrives, Saul is nowhere to be found...

BIBLE READINGS

Deuteronomy 17: 14-20 (CEV)

Reader: Christine Jackson

Moses said: People of Israel, after you capture the land the Lord your God is giving you, and after you settle on it, you will say, “We want a king, just like the nations around us.” Go ahead and appoint a king, but make sure that he is an Israelite and that he is the one the Lord has chosen.

The king should not have many horses, especially those from Egypt. The Lord has said never to go back there again. And the king must not have a lot of wives—they might tempt him to be unfaithful to the Lord. Finally, the king must not try to get huge amounts of silver and gold.

The official copy of God’s laws will be kept by the priests of the Levi tribe. So, as soon as anyone becomes king, he must go to the priests and write out a copy of these laws while they watch. Each day the king must read and obey these laws, so that he will learn to worship the Lord with fear and trembling and not think that he’s better than everyone else.

If the king completely obeys the Lord’s commands, he and his descendants will rule Israel for many years.

Contemporary English Version (CEV) © 1995 by American Bible Society

1 Samuel 10:17-27 (CSB®)

Reader : Gordon MacDonald

Samuel summoned the people to the Lord at Mizpah and said to the Israelites, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I brought Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the power of the Egyptians and all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.’ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your troubles and afflictions. You said to him, ‘You must set a king over us.’ Now therefore present yourselves before the Lord by your tribes and clans.”

Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected. Then he had the tribe of Benjamin come forward by its clans, and the Matrite clan was selected. Finally, Saul son of Kish was selected. But when they searched for him, they could not find him. They again inquired of the Lord, “Has the man come here yet?”

The Lord replied, “There he is, hidden among the supplies.”

They ran and got him from there. When he stood among the people, he stood a head taller than anyone else. Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see the one the Lord has chosen? There is no one like him among the entire population.”

And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

Samuel proclaimed to the people the rights of kingship. He wrote them on a scroll, which he placed in the presence of the Lord. Then Samuel sent all the people home.

Saul also went to his home in Gibeath, and brave men whose hearts God had touched went with him. But some wicked men said, “How can this guy save us?” They despised him and did not bring him a gift, but Saul said nothing.

The Christian Standard Bible. © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: He will hold me fast

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/SxwsHv9dII8>

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
when the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
for my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
for my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
for my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
for my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

*Words & music: © Matt Merker, arranged by Coffey Ministries; video: Ryan McCarty
Vocals: Stephanie & Aaron Coffey; Instrumentals: Carol Anne Clemons (flute), Dillon England
(mandolin), Matthew Clemons (bass), Aaron Coffey (guitar), Stephanie Coffey (piano)
Audio recorded, mixed, & mastered by Ben Vawter; directed by Reba Snyder Miller
Recording Studio: Aire Born Group, Indianapolis, IN www.aireborn.com
Used with permission.*

Except the Lord, build the house,
they labour in vain that build it.
Except the Lord, keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain. *Psalm 127:1 (AV)*

Loving Father,
we come before you this morning,
asking you to bless all the countries of the world:
those who are in disagreement and in conflict,
those with no food, no clean drinking water,
and with children living on the streets and abused.
Give them hope, and make their leaders and governments
want to give them a better quality of life.

We pray for everyone involved in the pandemic:
those who have been the victims of this dreadful disease
and the doctors and nurses who have cared for them.
We pray for those who have lost loved ones,
and who are suffering despair.

We pray also for those who have lost their jobs,
and who are living with great mental stress.
We know that life's journey leads through dark valleys,
and that many are travelling that path just now, even as we are.
Help us to remember, that however dark the valley,
the darkness does not hide us from you.
May it not hide you from us,
but may we know that you are always with us.

We pray this morning for the Queen and the Royal Family
at this difficult time for them.
Give them guidance and strength,
to come together in loving harmony.

Give us thankful hearts, O God,
for all your goodness,
and help us by the way we live,
to repay some of the debt we owe.

For the sake of Him who came,
not to be served, but to serve
your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN: Psalm 23: Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy

Watch video at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RNJWZpb5hbdnMw1UbUMkFieHsIsenIx1/view>

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
In green pastures, He makes me lie down.
He restores my soul and leads me on for His Name,
for His great Name.

*Surely goodness, surely mercy, right beside me all my days—
and I will dwell in Your house forever and bless Your Holy Name.*

You prepare a table right before me
in the presence of my enemies.
Though the arrow flies and the terror of night
is at my door, I'll trust you Lord.

*Surely goodness, surely mercy, right beside me all my days—
and I will dwell in Your house forever and bless Your Holy Name.*

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil...
and even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
You are on my side— oh-oh-oh!
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
You are on my side.

*Surely goodness, surely mercy, right beside me all my days—
and I will dwell in Your house forever and bless Your Holy Name.*

*Shane Barnard © 2015 Songs from Wellhouse; Adm. SHOUT! Music Publishing UK
Sung by Mairi Bowlerwell, accompanied by John Bowlerwell,
Used by kind permission of Dunfermline East Church of Scotland*

THE BLESSING

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you. **Amen**

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

Next week:

Saul and the threat from Nahash