

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 15th August 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 service, follow the link <https://youtu.be/8muBUrK9Dp0> which is also 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.**

INTROIT: Bless the Lord, my soul (Psalm 104:1)

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/UYLKrFOLS-E>

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless His holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Words and Music: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

WELCOME to St Mungo's. Let us worship God.

HYMN: My Jesus, my Saviour

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

My Jesus, my Saviour;
Lord, there is none like You.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the Earth, let us sing:
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands.
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

©1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing/Kingsway.co.uk

Recorded live at the NBA Big Sing, Newcastle upon Tyne, produced by ianbritton.co.uk

Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 Licence © 2007

CALL TO PRAYER

The Lord God is famous for his wonderful deeds,
and he is kind and merciful.

He gives food to his worshipers
and always keeps his agreement with them.

Psalm 111: 4-5 (CEV)

PRAYER

Father God, you are wise,
and sometimes we are foolish.
Instead of listening to you,
we often try to solve our own problems
and make our own paths.

Forgive us, and rescue us from the situations
where we have got ourselves entangled.

You generously give us all that we need--
for our physical needs--
and also for our spiritual needs,
through Jesus, who died and rose again for us.

But sometimes we try to provide for ourselves alone,
and forget to share your generosity with others.
Forgive us, and help us to be aware of others in your church
and others in our world.

You are faithful, and we are fallible.
Help us to see how much we depend
on your kindness and faithfulness
and help us to reflect that kindness to others.

Father God, speak to us today,
and cleanse from all that displeases you.
Gather us back to yourself,
set our feet on your paths once more
and let us walk in Christ's footsteps more closely.
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

THE STORY SO FAR

The storyteller has fast-forwarded the story to the night before the battle, where Saul is desperately seeking supernatural guidance. First, he seeks it in the proper places, through the channels that God has blessed in the past: the guidance of dreams and their right interpretation; the holy objects hidden in the High Priest's dress robes which gave help in taking difficult decisions; and the voices of the prophets bringing God's word to the people. All are now silent.

So, instead, Saul seeks an answer in forbidden places by going to a medium, breaking his own laws, based in turn on the Law of God. (Saul had previously banned all occult practitioners from Israel.) He asks the woman to 'bring up' Samuel, who is dead and buried. The woman 'brings up' Samuel. It's quite hard to discern what's going on, not least because the storyteller is reluctant to tell us much about this forbidden activity. Samuel's message to Saul is stark: "The Lord has turned away from you.... God has done what he told you through me: ripped the kingdom out of your hands and given it to your neighbour, to David. It's because you did not listen and obey the Lord, refusing to carry out his seething judgment on Amalek, that God does to you what he's doing now. The Lord is turning Israel, along with you, over to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me...."

Saul throws himself on the ground in an agony of despair and goes out later into the night, blindly accepting his fate. (It is important to understand that the Bible does not teach fatalism: if Saul had genuinely sought the Lord in repentance, then things might have been different.)

Having dealt with Saul's last night on earth, the storyteller again turns back the 'clock' in the story. How will David deal with his own dark day?

BIBLE READINGS

1 Samuel 29:1 – 30:8 (MSG)

Reader: Gordon Macdonald

The Philistines mustered all their troops at Aphek. Meanwhile Israel had made camp at the spring at Jezreel. As the Philistine warlords marched forward by regiments and divisions, David and his men were bringing up the rear with Achish.

The Philistine officers said, "What business do these Hebrews have being here?"

Achish answered the officers, "Don't you recognize David, ex-servant of King Saul of Israel? He's been with me a long time. I've found nothing to be suspicious of, nothing to complain about, from the day he defected from Saul until now."

Angry with Achish, the Philistine officers said, "Send this man back to where he came from. Let him stick to his normal duties. He's not going into battle with us. He'd switch sides in the middle of the fight! What better chance to get back in favour with his master than by stabbing us in the back! Isn't this the same David they celebrate at their parties, singing,

Saul kills by the thousand,
David by the ten thousand!"

So Achish had to send for David and tell him, “As God lives, you’ve been a trusty ally—excellent in all the ways you have worked with me, beyond reproach in the ways you have conducted yourself. But the warlords don’t see it that way. So it’s best that you leave peacefully, now. It’s not worth it, displeasing the Philistine warlords.”

“But what have I done?” said David. “Have you had a single cause for complaint from the day I joined up with you until now? Why can’t I fight against the enemies of my master the king?”

“I agree,” said Achish. “You’re a good man—as far as I’m concerned, God’s angel! But the Philistine officers were emphatic: ‘He’s not to go with us into battle.’ So get an early start, you and the men who came with you. As soon as you have light enough to travel, go.”

David rose early, he and his men, and by daybreak they were on their way back to Philistine country. The Philistines went on to Jezreel.

Three days later, David and his men arrived back in Ziklag. Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They tore Ziklag to pieces and then burned it down. They captured all the women, young and old. They didn’t kill anyone, but drove them like a herd of cattle. By the time David and his men entered the village, it had been burned to the ground, and their wives, sons, and daughters all taken prisoner.

David and his men burst out in loud wails—wept and wept until they were exhausted with weeping. David’s two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail widow of Nabal of Carmel, had been taken prisoner along with the rest. And suddenly David was in even worse trouble. There was talk among the men, bitter over the loss of their families, of stoning him.

David strengthened himself with trust in his God. He ordered Abiathar the priest, son of Ahimelech, “Bring me the Ephod so I can consult God.” Abiathar brought it to David. Then David prayed to God, “Shall I go after these raiders? Can I catch them?”

The answer came, “Go after them! Yes, you’ll catch them! Yes, you’ll make the rescue!” God answered. “You will definitely catch them and will succeed in the rescue!”

The Message (MSG) © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.

Hebrews 4: 14-16 (ERV)

We have a great high priest who has gone to live with God in heaven. He is Jesus the Son of God. So let us continue to express our faith in him. Jesus, our high priest, is able to understand our weaknesses. When Jesus lived on earth, he was tempted in every way. He was tempted in the same ways we are tempted, but he never sinned. With Jesus as our high priest, we can feel free to come before God’s throne where there is grace. There we receive mercy and kindness to help us when we need it.

Easy-to-Read Version (ERV) Copyright © 2006 by Bible League International

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: It is well with my soul (When peace like a river)

Watch video <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AV9y8ut-Kwff-fUQVkuP7cZjGMhy7c5g/view>

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul).
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
if Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
you will whisper your peace to my soul.

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

But, Lord, it's for you, for your coming we wait,
the sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Horatio Spafford (1828-1888); tune by Philip Bliss (1838-1876)

Mairi Bowlerwell, accompanied by John Bowlerwell, Dunfermline East Church of Scotland

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

Father God,

we thank you for how you work quietly behind the scenes
to achieve your aims and to keep your promises in Jesus Christ.
Help us to strengthen ourselves with trust in you, our God.

God of wisdom, guide our paths.

Be with young people as they start and return to school.

Help them to learn to grow and flourish.

We pray for those who are feeling anxious about the new term,
knowing that school isn't always an easy place to be.

We pray for the pupils and teachers at all the schools in Penicuik.

Guide us in how we reach out to them.

God of wisdom, guide our paths.

Be with the people getting ready for the COP26 climate conference,
Give us bold ambition to make the changes we know are necessary
to protect the world you've created.

Help us seek justice and accountability in all our decision-making.

God of wisdom, guide our paths.

Be in and with our churches, as we grapple with the need for change
and a future that is going to be very different from our past.

Help us to recognise you at work already in our community
and to be listening for your whispers of new possibilities
and ways of living out the faith of the Gospel.

God of wisdom, guide our paths.

All our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus,
and pray in his words:

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.

Adapted from a prayer by Vicky Stigant.

HYMN: Be still, my soul

Watch video <https://youtu.be/OzoEeIoPoYs?list=PLUTsn5gOo3DHMdsI2avgjH-8mB8Rtb5Te>

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the weight of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
through every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your gracious, heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul: the waves and winds will know
the voice of Christ that ruled them here below.

Be still, my soul: the day is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joys restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
in his safe presence we shall meet at last.

K. von Schlegel (1697-1797); sung by Barbara Majetic, with Mihael Majetic. All Souls Music

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:

Rescue Mission (1 Samuel 30: 9-31)