

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 17th January 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. Full video: <https://youtu.be/nmkFWyOfJfs>

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: O God, give ear unto my cry (*Psalm 61: 1-5*)

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/J9GOxK0uQVE>

O God, give ear unto my cry;
unto my prayer attend.

From the utmost corner of the land
my cry to thee I'll send.

What time my heart is overwhelmed,
and in perplexity,

Do thou me lead unto the Rock
that higher is than I.

For thou hast for my refuge been
a shelter by thy power;
and for defence against my foes
thou hast been a strong tower.

Within thy tabernacle I
for ever will abide;
and under covert of thy wings
with confidence me hide.

For thou the vows that I did make,
O Lord my God, didst hear:
Thou hast giv'n me the heritage
of those thy name that fear.

Scottish Psalter, 1650. Sung by the Free Church of Scotland.

WELCOME to St Mungo's. It's good to have you with us.

Our call to worship is based on words from Hebrews chapter 4.

Leader: Let us confidently approach the throne of grace

**All: to receive mercy and find grace
whenever we need help.**

Let us worship God.

HYMN: Lord, you have searched me (Psalm 139)

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/F5fN7JvdfUE?list=RDF5fN7JvdfUE>

Lord, you have searched me and know me,
you know when I sit, when I rise.
All of my moments, my ways and my words,
are clearly discerned by your eyes.
You have laid your hand upon me,
enclosed me, behind and before.
Who else could ever have knowledge like this,
so high and so wonderful, Lord?

*Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens
you are there, you are there.
If I go deeper than oceans
or rise on the wings of the morning
or fly to the farthest horizon
you are there, you are there,
you are there.*

If I thought darkness would hide me,
shielding my ways from your sight,
even the night would be bright as the day,
the darkness would shine with your light.
Even before I was formed, Lord,
all of my days you ordained.
You have created me, you I will praise;
I'm fearfully, wonderfully made.

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Sung by Joel Payne © www.resoundworship.org

PRAYER (*adapted from Hannah's Prayer in 1 Samuel, chapter 2*)

Eternal God, only you are holy and true;
only you provide a rock-solid foundation
a cornerstone in Christ to build our lives on.

Help us to lay aside our empty boasts,
our arrogant assumptions about ourselves.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy.

You are the God who knows everything,
and you weigh the actions you see.

Help us quietly to confess our sins to you.
and find freedom from wrong thoughts and actions.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy.

The weapons of the powerful you crack in two,
but to those who stumble you give new strength.

You humble the proud but lift up the lowly.

You lift the poor up out of the dust,
the needy from the ash heap.

You lift them to reign with you for ever and ever.

Help us to humble ourselves before you.
and to seek to see the world through your eyes.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy.

You watch over the footsteps of the faithful,
but the wicked will be made silent in the darkness.

No-one will win by strength alone.

For you are our strength and salvation,
the Judge of all the earth and our Saviour.

Help us to trust and pray to you in all things.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE READING

At the end of the Book of Judges, Israel is still plunged in carnage and chaos. The storyteller concludes: "there was no king in Israel and everyone did what seemed right to them". God has, as always, a plan, which will involve new leaders for the nation.

However, the story of Samuel begins, not with the entry of a great and warlike figure on the stage, but with the believing prayer and vow of a woman who desperately wants to be a mother.

1 Samuel 1: 1-28 (New International Version) Reader: Janis Hogg

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim.... He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, 'Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?'

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, 'Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.'

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, 'How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.'

'Not so, my lord,' Hannah replied, 'I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.'

Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.'

She said, 'May your servant find favour in your eyes.' Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, 'Because I asked the Lord for him.'

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, 'After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.'

‘Do what seems best to you,’ her husband Elkanah told her. ‘Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word.’ So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, ‘Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he shall be given over to the Lord.’ And he worshipped the Lord there.

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SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Jesus, strong and kind

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/7wFuzD3fwr8>

Jesus said that if I thirst
I should come to him—
no one else can satisfy.
I should come to him.

Jesus said if I am weak
I should come to him—
no one else can be my strength.
I should come to him.

*For the Lord is good and faithful:
he will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus,
Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear
I should come to him—
no one else can be my shield.
I should come to him.

For the Lord is good and faithful....

Jesus said if I am lost
he will come to me,
and he showed me on that cross
he will come to me.

For the Lord is good and faithful....

*Rich Thompson, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Colin Buchanan © CityAlight Music
Adm. Integrity Music. Sung by families from All Saints, Lindfield*

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES (Read by Christine Jackson)

God our Father,

you call us to follow in the way of Christ.

Be with us as we seek to live out your call.

Give us wisdom and discernment, strength and hope,

to live a life of obedience, trust and service.

We thank you for the approval of a new vaccine in the UK against Covid

and for the perseverance of researchers,

and the willingness of those who stepped forward to test it.

May the vaccination programme go speedily and well.

We remember families for whom these advances have come too late,

who must endure bereavement or continuing illness.

We pray for your comfort in their grief and for their healing.

As a new President and Vice-President take office in the United States,

we pray for justice, truth, unity and peace in a divided country.

Give your wisdom and courage to the new administration

to forge a path which will bring people together.

We pray for our own governments at Westminster and Holyrood,

and for those who hold them to account.

Support them through weary days.

Be their wisdom and strength for the good of all.

We remember those who suffer from anxiety or depression,

or who are carrying heavy burdens.

Come to them with a word of encouragement.

Father, in Jesus we find rest for the weary,

peace for the guilty and grace sufficient for every need.

We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus

and in the words that he 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.

HYMN O faithful Lord, my solid ground

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/VTqrxrlui9c>

O faithful Lord, my solid ground,
when storms are raging all around
your mighty cross, your precious blood,
will keep me safe within the flood.

Nothing in all this world, I know,
can separate me from your love.

So I will cling to being found,
my life secure within your hand.

How wise the folly of your ways:
this treasure held in jars of clay,
and breaking forth from brokenness
there comes a power not from us.

So I will boast, though it seems wrong,
for when I'm weak, then I am strong.

Now taking up my cross I walk
your narrow path of life, my Lord.

And when I walk through death's dark vale,
Lord, I shall fear no evil there;

for you are with me, whispering still
your peace in times of trial and ill.

My boldest hope shall still remain:
to live is Christ, to die is gain!

Until the end, I'll walk your ways:
oh, hold me in my darkened days!

When you appear, all storms shall fade,
and there will dawn a brighter day.

Your faithful promises stand true
as all creation is renewed.

You'll make your home with us to stay
as every tear is wiped away

and heav'n and earth cry out your praise;
Oh, how my soul longs for that day!

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THE BLESSING

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

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Next week: Interruptions in the Night