

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 19th September 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 https://youtu.be/RGGL_p501iw 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: Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour

Watch video <https://youtu.be/FcB9MIUMPdY>

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender,
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

*Words: Frank Houghton (1894-1972) © Overseas Missionary Fellowship (UK)
Josh Bales and Reggie Kidd Cathedral Church of St Luke, Orlando*

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

HYMN: King of kings, majesty

Watch video <https://youtu.be/HGnpyYqwO8k>

King of kings, majesty,
God of Heaven living in me,
gentle Saviour, closest friend,
strong deliverer, beginning and end,
all within me falls at your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty.*

Earth and Heaven worship you,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne;
all within me cries out in praise.

*Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty.*

*Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty.
I live to serve your majesty.....*

Jarrod Cooper © 1996 Sovereign Lifestyle Music

Video: Recorded live at the NBA Big Sing by Ian Britton; this work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution–Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License © 2008

PRAYER

Loving Father, God of all,
you are the fountain of every blessing.
Our journey through life often leaves us dry and weary,
thirsty for the Living Water that Jesus offers.

We ask you to pour out your Spirit
afresh upon your people.

Unblock the wells of our hearts:
may your grace flow freely from our lives.

Bring life and refreshment to us
that we may spread your life to others around us.

Give us love for the unlovely,
peace with those with whom we struggle,
and joy in place of gloom.

Strengthen us with your hope,
and sustain us with renewed faith. **Amen.**

Adapted from a prayer by Our Daily Bread Ministries

INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

In this passage from Paul's letters to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul, manages to avoid using any of the normal Greek words for money. Perhaps he's being diplomatic, but more importantly he's trying to make a bigger point.

He needs to be diplomatic, not just because he's talking about money. Paul had a difficult relationship with the Christians in Corinth. It's a church he's founded, he knows and he loves. He's trying to restore damaged relationships and get things back on track. There's one outstanding matter: completion of 'the collection', a charitable fund for the church in Jerusalem.

We're not entirely sure *why* the Jerusalem church is in great need, but we can make good guesses. They're a minority community in a sometimes-hostile environment. That means loss of income, work and trading opportunities. They have a number of dependent widows. And at some point, they were possibly affected by a widespread famine. All these things have ongoing economic effects.

One of Paul's great projects is a fund to help them. There are references to it scattered through some of his letters. He loves the idea of Gentile Christians helping Jewish believers in Jesus. It not only provides much-needed support, it's a symbol of unity among those who believe -- and something he's been asked to do by the church leaders in Jerusalem.

There was initially a quick response from Corinth. They were enthusiastic and eager to help, but maybe rather disorganised, so they haven't followed up on it. The main thing he's saying to the Corinthians is get on and do it. But there's more as well: Paul wants to go deeply into how and why believers in Jesus should be willing to give.

We're also going to hear from Paul's letter to the church in Rome, which indicates that the Corinthians did what they said they'd do. Paul mentions two Greek provinces of the Roman Empire, Macedonia and Achaia, and the capital of Achaia is Corinth.

BIBLE READINGS

2 Corinthians 8: 1-15 (GNB)

Reader: Gordon MacDonald

Our friends, we want you to know what God's grace has accomplished in the churches in Macedonia. They have been severely tested by the troubles they went through; but their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving, even though they are very poor. I can assure you that they gave as much as they could, and even more than they could. Of their own free will they begged us and pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people in Judea. It was more than we could have hoped for! First they gave themselves to the Lord; and then, by God's will they gave themselves to us as well. So we urged Titus, who began this work, to continue it and help you complete this special service of love. You are so rich in all you have: in faith, speech, and knowledge, in your eagerness to help and in your love for us. And so we want you to be generous also in this service of love.

I am not laying down any rules. But by showing how eager others are to help, I am trying to find out how real your own love is. You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; rich as he was, he made himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of his poverty.

My opinion is that it is better for you to finish now what you began last year. You were the first, not only to act, but also to be willing to act. On with it, then, and finish the job! Be as eager to finish it as you were to plan it, and do it with what you now have. If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have.

I am not trying to relieve others by putting a burden on you; but since you have plenty at this time, it is only fair that you should help those who are in need. Then, when you are in need and they have plenty, they will help you. In this way both are treated equally. As the scripture says, "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

Good News Translation (GNT) Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society

Romans 15: 25-29 (CEB)

Reader: Gordon MacDonald

But now I'm going to Jerusalem, to serve God's people. Macedonia and Achaia have been happy to make a contribution for the poor among God's people in Jerusalem. They were happy to do this, and they are actually in debt to God's people in Jerusalem. If the Gentiles got a share of the Jewish people's spiritual resources, they ought to minister to them with material resources. So then after I have finished this job and have safely delivered the final amount of the Gentiles' offering to them, I will leave for Spain, visiting you on the way. And I know that when I come to you, I will come with the fullest blessing of Christ.

Common English Bible (CEB) Copyright © 2011 by Common English Bible

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Consider Christ

Watch video <https://youtu.be/TH1YlfxqbuQ>

Consider Christ, the source of our salvation,
that he should take the penalty for me.

Though he was pure, a lamb without a blemish,
he took my sins and nailed them to the tree.

*My Lord and God, you are so rich in mercy,
mere words alone are not sufficient thanks.
So take my life, transform, renew and change me
that I might be a living sacrifice.*

Consider Christ, that he could trust his Father,
in the garden of Gethsemane.

Though full of dread and fearful of the anguish,
he drank the cup that was reserved for me.

My Lord and God, you are so rich in mercy....

Consider Christ, for death he has defeated--
and he arose, appeared for all to see.

And now he sits at God's right hand in heaven.
where he prepares a resting place for me.

My Lord and God, you are so rich in mercy....

Consider Christ, Emu Music, © 1996 Bryson Smith & Philip Percival, CCLI Song No: 1980516

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

God our Father, maker of all things,
in your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts.
With them we offer ourselves to your service.
And we pray for grace to live and to give like Jesus.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

We pray for your church in places
where there is persecution, poverty or lack of resources.
In your gracious love, strengthen hope
in the hearts and lives of your people
as they bear witness to your love in difficult circumstances.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

We pray for our own church here,
and for our brothers and sisters in our local churches.
In your love, renew in us
a sense of your calling to serve you.
Help us to be willing to give generously
to resource the ministry of your church
both here and in places of deepest need.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

We pray for those we know who are struggling
with illness or weakness in heart, body or mind.
In your love, hold and sustain them,
grant them peace and comfort them
through the presence and the prayers
of family, of friends and of this congregation.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy, All: hear our prayer.

All our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus, praying 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.**

HYMN: Amazing grace (my chains are gone)

Watch video at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VOdETTRBv7eOyiZRJoELUrh_ClnKA6Y/view

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone, I've been set free!
My God, my Saviour, has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns:
unending love, amazing grace!*

The Lord has promised good to me:
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

My chains are gone....

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine., will be forever mine
You are forever mine.

My chains are gone....

*Verses: John Newton (1725-1807); Refrain and musical setting: Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio
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Sung by Mairi Bowlerwell, accompanied by John Bowlerwell,
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THE BLESSING

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

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Next week:

Service includes Holy Communion