

# **Welcome** to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.stmungo.freeuk.com) Video [https://youtu.be/oLQBB\\_AZ\\_To](https://youtu.be/oLQBB_AZ_To)**

**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 Fifth Sunday of Lent. Our call to worship is taken from the opening words of Psalm 67.

**Leader:** May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us;

**All:** **that your ways may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

**HYMN: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation**

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/rCnQNwQG5GI>

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
All you who hear, now to his temple draw near,  
join in profound adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning;  
keeping us safe at his side and so gently sustaining.  
Have you not seen all you have needed has been  
met by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and defend us!  
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend us.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
who with his love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the "Amen!" sound from his people again,  
now as we worship before him!

*Words: after Joachim Neander, Catherine Winkworth & others (public domain)  
Sung in St Andrew's Metropolitan Cathedral, Glasgow*

## **PRAYER**

God our Father,  
our spiritual ancestors trusted you,  
and you rescued them.

When they cried out for help,  
you saved them,  
and you didn't let them down  
when they depended on you.

Help us to depend on you,  
not just when we are faced with bitter enemies,  
but in all things.

You've made us, nourished us and guarded us.  
We thank you that you show mercy to all,  
from one generation to the next,  
who honour you as God.

It is because of you,  
that we've been united with Jesus.  
He showed us your plan of salvation  
and made us acceptable to you;  
he made us pure and holy in your sight  
and gave himself to purchase our salvation.

Help us to realise that Jesus is the vine,  
and we are the branches.

If we stay joined to him, and he to us,  
we will produce much fruit.

But without him, we cannot do anything of any worth.

May your strong hand always be our defence;  
your mercy in Christ our salvation;  
your word of truth our instructor  
and the grace of your life-giving Spirit  
our consolation and our strength,  
all through this life and at the last,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **HYMN: Wonderful Lord**

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

Wonderful Lord, wonderful God,  
you are my shield, my protector.  
I can lie down, go off to sleep,  
knowing you're watching over me.

Wonderful Lord, wonderful God,  
help me to trust you forever.  
I need not fear, 'cos you are near,  
I can lie down and sleep in peace.

*Doug Horley © Thankyou Music; Adm. by Integritymusic.com; arr. Caroline Feerrick  
Video from All Souls, Langham Place*

## **THE STORY SO FAR**

The Lord has pointed out Saul, as the candidate for king, to the prophet Samuel. Samuel secretly anoints Saul as future ruler of Israel and God equips him for the task. The storyteller then speaks of Saul being publicly selected by lot, which though a strange way to us, made sense to ancient Israel as a method of confirming God's choice.

In fact, they must rely on the Lord again to show them where the candidate actually is, because Saul has disappeared during the process. Saul is hauled out from where he has been hiding and acclaimed king, though not by all the people. Some of them say: 'How can this guy save us?' (Actually, it is the Lord who will save them, but God will use Saul to do it.)

So, Saul has yet to prove himself worthy of his title by defending the Israelites in battle. That is what the people had hoped for, when they first demanded a king. They said: 'Our king will judge for us and go with us and fight our battles.'

The first challenge comes, not as we've been led to expect from the *west* and the lords of the five cities of the Philistines, but from the *east* and from another king, Nahash of Ammon.

## BIBLE READINGS

### 1 Samuel 11: 1-15 (NLT)

Reader: Ian Dickson

*Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben who lived east of the Jordan River. He gouged out the right eye of each of the Israelites living there, and he didn't allow anyone to come and rescue them. In fact, of all the Israelites east of the Jordan, there wasn't a single one whose right eye Nahash had not gouged out. But there were 7,000 men who had escaped from the Ammonites, and they had settled in Jabesh-gilead.\**

About a month later, King Nahash of Ammon led his army against the Israelite town of Jabesh-gilead. But all the citizens of Jabesh asked for peace. "Make a treaty with us, and we will be your servants," they pleaded.

"All right," Nahash said, "but only on one condition. I will gouge out the right eye of every one of you as a disgrace to all Israel!"

"Give us seven days to send messengers throughout Israel!" replied the elders of Jabesh. "If no one comes to save us, we will agree to your terms."

When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the people about their plight, everyone broke into tears. Saul had been ploughing a field with his oxen, and when he returned to town, he asked, "What's the matter? Why is everyone crying?" So they told him about the message from Jabesh.

Then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul, and he became very angry. He took two oxen and cut them into pieces and sent the messengers to carry them throughout Israel with this message: "This is what will happen to the oxen of anyone who refuses to follow Saul and Samuel into battle!" And the Lord made the people afraid of Saul's anger, and all of them came out together as one. When Saul mobilized them at Bezek, he found that there were 300,000 men from Israel and 30,000 men from Judah.

So Saul sent the messengers back to Jabesh-gilead to say, "We will rescue you by noon-time tomorrow!" There was great joy throughout the town when that message arrived!

The men of Jabesh then told their enemies, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you can do to us whatever you wish." But before dawn the next morning, Saul arrived, having divided his army into three detachments. He launched a surprise attack against the Ammonites and slaughtered them the whole morning. The remnant of their army was so badly scattered that no two of them were left together.

Then the people exclaimed to Samuel, "Now where are those men who said, 'Why should Saul rule over us?' Bring them here, and we will kill them!"

But Saul replied, "No one will be executed today, for today the Lord has rescued Israel!"

Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us all go to Gilgal to renew the kingdom."

So they all went to Gilgal, and in a solemn ceremony before the Lord they made Saul king. Then they offered peace offerings to the Lord, and Saul and all the Israelites were filled with joy.

*\*This is a longer form of the text in Dead Sea Scroll 4QSam<sup>a</sup>, supported by the ancient historian, Josephus. Holy Bible, New Living Translation, © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission.*

*[Jesus taught:]* You have heard people say, “Love your neighbours and hate your enemies.” But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you. Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong. If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that? Even tax collectors love their friends. If you greet only your friends, what’s so great about that? Don’t even unbelievers do that? But you must always act like your Father in heaven.

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

## **SHORT ADDRESS**

### **HYMN: Who, O Lord, could save themselves...?**

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

Who, O Lord, could save themselves, their own soul could heal?  
Our shame was deeper than the sea— Your grace is deeper still.  
Who, O Lord, could save themselves, their own soul could heal?  
Our shame was deeper than the sea— Your grace is deeper still.  
Yes, Your grace is deeper still.

*You alone can rescue, You alone can save,  
You alone can lift us from the grave.  
You came down to find us, led us out of death.  
To You alone belongs the highest praise.*

You, O Lord, have made a way, the great divide You heal.  
For when our hearts were far away, Your love went further still.  
Yes, your love goes further still.

*You alone can rescue, You alone can save,  
You alone can lift us from the grave.  
You came down to find us, led us out of death.  
To You alone belongs the highest praise.*

We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes— You’re the Giver of Life.  
We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes— You’re the Giver of Life.  
We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes— You’re the Giver of Life.  
We lift up our eyes, lift up our eyes— You’re the Giver of Life.

*You alone can rescue, You alone can save....*

*You alone can rescue, You alone can save....*

## PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

God our Father,  
you are the King over all the Nations.  
Strengthen and establish good government in all lands,  
that your people may lead a quiet and peaceable life  
as we worship and honour you.

You bring wars to an end all over the world;  
you break and destroy the weapons of warfare.  
Frustrate and scatter all who delight  
in oppression and violence.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*

We remember Myanmar at this time.  
We pray for peace there and for protection of life.  
Provide refuge to vulnerable communities,  
fleeing across borders.

We remember all who live in refugee camps.  
Cause them to know that they are not forgotten.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

God of creation,  
all people are made in your image, male and female.  
We remember the searching questions posed to all of us,  
following the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard.

We pray that you would bring about change in our society,  
that women and girls might no longer be mistreated,  
exploited and objectivised.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer*

For the men and boys  
who have behaved violently towards women and girls,  
we pray that they would have a change of heart,  
repent in meaningful ways,  
and seek whatever help they need to lead changed lives.

For the women and girls who have been left traumatised,  
haunted by experiences they have been through,  
we pray that they would encounter you as their healer.  
Come close to all who are grieving the loss of someone they loved.

*Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Father, you are our strength and our defence,  
our deliverer and our refuge.  
You have given for us a mighty Saviour in Jesus,  
through whom we pray. **Amen.**

## HYMN: Keep my eyes on You

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/uUywx83Hps?list=PLu8mfQRMKrc7FPINXxBoll7FicqejfThU>

God my light, all through the valley You're with me!  
God my strength, whatever may come You are mighty—  
Your love greater than all of my fear,  
and Your ways are higher than mine and I'll...

*...keep my eyes on You, keep my eyes on You.*

*Whatever I go through,*

*You're still God:*

*You are God.*

*Your every word is true,*

*so I'll put my trust in You.*

*Faithful One, keep my eyes on You.*

God my light, shine on the day that's before me.  
Give me sight, show me the ways You can use me.

Your face, ever before me, I pray;

Your love in all of my ways as I...

*...keep my eyes on You, keep my eyes on You.*

*Whatever I go through,*

*You're still God:*

*You are God.*

*Your every word is true,*

*so I'll put my trust in You.*

*Faithful One, keep my eyes on You.*

You are our salvation,  
Your love never failing,  
You are God unchanging: Holy One.

And Your word stands forever;

Your Name our strong tower;

Our Hope, our Provider: Holy One.

*And I'll keep my eyes on You, I'll keep my eyes on You.*

*Whatever I go through,*

*You're still God:*

*You are God.*

*Your every word is true,*

*so I'll put my trust in You.*

*Faithful One, keep my eyes, keep my eyes on You.....*

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Video: [grahamkendrick.co.uk/resources-for-lockdown/graham-kendrick-albums/resources-for-lockdown](http://grahamkendrick.co.uk/resources-for-lockdown/graham-kendrick-albums/resources-for-lockdown)

## THE BLESSING

Keep your eyes on Jesus,  
who leads us and makes our faith complete;  
and may the blessing of God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you. **Amen**

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**Next week:**



**Palm Sunday: Look, your King is coming**