

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 25th July 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.stmungos.freeuk.com . Video <https://youtu.be/Fq6cpdqZvmw> And if you would like to listen to just the sermon and a prayer, dial [01968 700121](tel:01968700121). There will be about 20 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start.

WELCOME to St Mungo's. We're glad you can join us.

Today we are celebrating Holy Communion.

If you are joining us from home and would like to put aside some bread and wine (or something which would represent them), please retain them until the appropriate part of the service and consume them reverently and thankfully.

If you would rather not participate, you are equally welcome to listen and enjoy spiritual communion with Christ and 'feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving'.

HYMN: O God, you search me and you know me (Psalm 139)

Watch video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4ScBPE9v_I

O God, you search me and you know me.
All my ways lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down, you go before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.
You discern my purpose from afar,
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through.
You are with me beyond my understanding:
God of my present, my past and future too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light.
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

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Sung by the Sunday 7pm Choir (and friends), St. Francis De Sales Church in Ajax, Ontario, Canada

PRAYER (using Psalm 89)

*I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.*

Lord God, we gather at this brief moment of time
to give you praise for everything and forever.

Your love, like yourself, has no beginning or end.

Your faithfulness is eternal.

The majesty of the heavens and the myriad wonders of earth
bear witness to your providence.

You have no competitor, no rival, no substitute.

You are right and you are just, your plans for us are good.

We cannot exhaust your love, we cannot get our heads around it,
but your word declares what you are like,

and in Jesus Christ we see enough to satisfy us forever.

Lord, there are things which contradict all this.

We don't see your will being done on earth.

We admit to times when we ourselves have failed you,
by what we've done or what we have omitted to do.

We have sinned, and we have been sinned against.

Have mercy upon us. Have mercy on our friends.

Have mercy on our enemies, for your name's sake.

Lord, our time on earth is short, and your purpose is long.

Guide us in the business that lies ahead of us this week.

Help us in the things that challenge us.

Keep us faithful.

Grant us wisdom, and true humility,
as we journey with you before us and behind us,
above us and within us,
through Jesus Christ and in the power of his Spirit. **Amen.**

Based on a prayer by Jock Stein

THE STORY SO FAR

David has been preserved by the Lord from launching a murderous assault on all the men and boys in Nabal's household, through the intervention of Abigail, Nabal's wife. Nabal dies, and David enters into negotiations to marry Abigail. She becomes David's third wife. His first wife, Saul's daughter, Michal, has been married off to someone else by order of the king, presumably to distance David even further from the throne.

In another incident, David again encounters Saul and refuses violence as a way of becoming king. Before, in the cave at En-Gedi, David cut off a portion of Saul's royal robe and regretted doing so. Now, in the dead of night, David and one of his men slip into the royal camp and deprive Saul of his ever-present spear and life-giving water-bottle, symbols of his role as commander of Israel's armies.

Made wiser by his experience with Nabal, David restrains the other man from killing Saul, saying: "The Lord will strike him. Either his time will come when he'll die naturally, or he'll go into battle and be swept away."

An exchange in the dark, between David and Saul's forces follows, in which David treats Saul with respect and where Saul has an opportunity to regain his spear. Despite Saul's confessions of guilt and further promises not to harm him, David doesn't trust Saul's integrity any more, and they part company for the last time.

BIBLE READINGS

1 Samuel 27:1 - 28:2 (GWT)

Reader: Bill Webster

David said to himself, "One of these days Saul will sweep me away. The best thing for me to do is to make sure that I escape to Philistine territory. Then Saul will give up looking all over Israel for me, and I'll escape from him." So David went with his 600 men to King Achish of Gath, Moach's son. David and his men stayed with Achish in Gath. Each one had his family, and David had his two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail (who had been Nabal's wife) from Carmel. When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he didn't search for him anymore.

David said to Achish, "If you will permit me, let me have a place in one of the outlying towns so that I can live there. Why should I live in the royal city with you?" So Achish immediately gave him Ziklag. (This is why Ziklag still belongs to the kings of Judah today.)

David stayed in Philistine territory for one year and four months. Then David and his men went to raid the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. (They lived in the

territory which extends from Telaim to Shur and Egypt.) Whenever David attacked the territory, he left no man or woman alive. He also took sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and clothing and returned to Achish.

Achish would ask, "Whom did you raid today?"

And David would answer, "the Negev in Judah," or "the portion of the Negev where the descendants of Jerahmeel live," or "the portion of the Negev where the Kenites live." He did not bring a single man or woman back to Gath alive. He thought, "They could tell Achish what I really did." This was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. And Achish believed David. Achish thought, "He has definitely made his own people in Israel despise him. He'll be my servant from now on."

At that time the Philistines had gathered their army to fight against Israel. Then Achish said to David, "You need to know that you and your men will be going with me into battle."

"Very well," David responded to Achish, "you will then know what I can do."

"Very well," Achish told David, "I will make you my bodyguard for life."

GOD'S WORD Translation © 1995, 2003, 2013, 2014, 2019, 2020 God's Word to the Nations Mission Soc.

2 Corinthians 1: 8-14 (CEV)

Reader: Margaret Webster

My friends, I want you to know what a hard time we had in Asia. Our sufferings were so horrible and so unbearable that death seemed certain. In fact, we felt sure that we were going to die. But this made us stop trusting in ourselves and start trusting God, who raises the dead to life. God saved us from the threat of death, and we are sure that he will do it again and again. Please help us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks for the blessings we receive in answer to all these prayers.

We can be proud of our clear conscience. We have always lived honestly and sincerely, especially when we were with you. And we were guided by God's wonderful kindness instead of by the wisdom of this world. I am not writing anything you cannot read and understand. I hope you will understand it completely, just as you already partly understand us. Then when our Lord Jesus returns, you can be as proud of us as we are of you.

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

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Grace Awaiting Me

Watch video https://youtu.be/hNK_VoCadSo

I will see the world to come,
for one has suffered in my place.
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.
Judgement's done, atonement's made,
the ransom's paid, no guilt remains.
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.

*Grace, a welcome from the Father;
Grace, forgiveness full and free:
Grace, that's greater than our failings.
Oh, there is grace awaiting me.*

I take comfort in the hope
of the thief upon the cross,
for I am worthy of as little love as he.
Like this man, I won't despair,
for life's ahead: what joy we'll share!
Now there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.

Grace, a welcome from the Father...

Jesus, you have loved and bought me:
by your death my debts are paid.
I am yours, I stand beside you;
fearless, face the coming day.

I will see the world to come,
despite the sin that I have done,
for there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.
All who call upon the Lord
will rise to life with peace assured,
for there is grace awaiting me, awaiting me.

Grace, a welcome from the Father....

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HOLY COMMUNION: THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

Male or female, young or old,
friend or stranger, weak or bold,
sure or doubting, happy or sad,
strong or fragile, good or bad,
free from worry, burdened by care,
in pleasure or pain, in hope or despair,
come to this table where divisions are ended,
bring all the labels that keep us apart,
come to this place where such things are transcended,
find a new purpose spring deep in your heart.
Offer to Jesus your love and commitment,
offer to God your thanksgiving and praise,
receive the gift he longs to give you—
joy to last you all your days.

Christ is waiting here to meet us,
ready now to lead us forward,
give to him your heartfelt worship,
suffering servant, risen Lord.

Invitation from Nick Fawcett. Prayers for all seasons

FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE AND COMMAND

So now we do as Jesus did and commanded us to do.
We take this bread and wine (the ordinary things of the world)
which Christ, in his own way, will make special,
and as he prayed before sharing, let us pray:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God,
we're reminded at this table of how much you love us,
how far you were prepared to go on our behalf,
how total a sacrifice you made in Christ.
We come to celebrate the extent of your love
in taking on human flesh,
how you went the whole way
in surrendering your only Son,
enduring death and agony on the cross.
Remind us once more
through the bread and the wine we'll share,
the words we'll hear and the prayers we'll make,
of all you've done and all you've given.
Help us in return to give our all to you.

So, send now your Spirit among us
and on this bread and wine,
that we may taste and see your goodness,
be embraced by your love,
and be engaged in your service
until Christ comes again.

Let's join together in the family prayer of the Church:

**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.**

THE SHARING

As Jesus did, so we do.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

(the bread is broken)

We take this wine to share in the Blood of Christ.

(the cup is raised)

We believe that he who lived,
died and rose again for us
will meet us here.

Jesus said: 'This is my body. It's given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

(we eat the bread)

Jesus said: 'This cup is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Drink it, all of you, to remember me.'

(we drink the cup)

THE PEACE *(using British Sign Language)*

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

HYMN: Will your anchor hold?

Watch video <https://youtu.be/PTfypuXwrMA?t=26>

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift, or firm remain?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!*

Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers roar and the reef is near?
While the surges rage, and the wild winds blow,
shall the angry waves then your barque o'erflow?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*

Will your eyes behold through the morning light
the city of gold and the harbour bright?
Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,
when life's storms are past for evermore?

*We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love*

*Priscilla J. Owens (Public Domain)
Sung at St Alban's, Leeds, for BBC Songs of Praise*

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:

KIP Service (joint Church of Scotland congregations):

Theme: Breaking Bread (led by the Rev Peter Wood)

Following week:

Saul and the silence of God [1 Sam 28: 3-25]