

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



SUNDAY 31st 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.stmungos.freeuk.com Video <https://youtu.be/nlo0ysxVc6M>

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'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: Not to us be glory given (*Psalm 115*)

Watch video at https://youtu.be/TO_hLNTqOug

Not to us be glory given,

but to him who reigns above:

Glory to the God of heaven

for his faithfulness and love!

What though unbelieving voices

hear no word and see no sign,

still in God my heart rejoices,

working out his will divine.

Not what human fingers fashion,
gold and silver, deaf and blind,
dead to knowledge and compassion,
having neither heart nor mind--
lifeless gods, some yet adore them,
nerveless hands and feet of clay;
all become, who bow before them,
lost indeed, and dead as they.

Not in them the hope of blessing:
hope is in the living Lord!
High and low, his Name confessing,
find in him their shield and sword.
Hope of all whose hearts revere him,
God of Israel, still the same!
God of Aaron! Those who fear him
he remembers them by name.

Not the dead, but we the living
praise the Lord with all our powers;
of his goodness freely giving,
his is heaven, earth is ours.

Not to us be glory given,
but to him who reigns above:
glory to the God of heaven
for his faithfulness and love!

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PRAYER

Gracious God,
we come to you just as we are.
There is nothing more we can bring.
You are the potter, we are the clay.

With you there is nothing we need fear,
nothing we cannot face with your hand upon us.
You give us your word to guide us,
your Spirit to equip us.

You ask only that we open our hearts to you:
in the reality of our poverty, our bankruptcy of spirit.
Yet so often we come to you with closed hearts,

self-satisfied, self-deceived,
failing to listen, failing to acknowledge our need of you.

Only with your life-giving Spirit at work in us
can we truly be your people,
born not of our best efforts,
but born of you.

We confess the things which are not right in our lives to you now....

God be merciful to us and save us.

Come to us now, forgive us we pray.

Cleanse us from our misdeeds

and let your Holy Spirit fill us.

Enable our worship and prompt us to obey

through the power and in the name of Jesus. **Amen**

Adapted from a prayer by Christine M Clark

THE STORY SO FAR

Samuel is now grown up and established as a prophet of the Lord. He reveals the word of the Lord to all Israel. The trouble is that the elders of Israel don't appear to be listening. Years of corruption at the top and widespread lawlessness in society have taken their toll. God, through Samuel, has said that the house of Eli must fall.

The Israelites are in a dangerous situation. They are threatened by the Philistines, a warlike people who have migrated from Greece and Crete. After an unsuccessful attack on Egypt, the Philistines have settled in five fortified cities on the coast of Canaan. They are on the lookout to expand into more territory and are technologically superior to Israel, having acquired the ability to work iron, a secret they guard jealously.

But there is danger in another way. The elders of Israel think that by bringing the Ark of the Covenant into battle, they can manipulate God into giving them victory. They are about to be proved disastrously wrong.

BIBLE READINGS

1 Samuel 4: 1b-22 (New Living Translation)

Reader: Agnes Ovenstone

At that time Israel was at war with the Philistines. The Israelite army was camped near Ebenezer, and the Philistines were at Aphek. The Philistines attacked and defeated the army of Israel, killing 4,000 men. After the battle was over, the troops retreated to their camp, and the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies."

So they sent men to Shiloh to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, were also there with the Ark of the Covenant of God. When all the Israelites saw the

Ark of the Covenant of the Lord coming into the camp, their shout of joy was so loud it made the ground shake!

“What’s going on?” the Philistines asked. “What’s all the shouting about in the Hebrew camp?” When they were told it was because the Ark of the Lord had arrived, they panicked. “The gods have come into their camp!” they cried. “This is a disaster! We have never had to face anything like this before! Help! Who can save us from these mighty gods of Israel? They are the same gods who destroyed the Egyptians with plagues when Israel was in the wilderness. Fight as never before, Philistines! If you don’t, we will become the Hebrews’ slaves just as they have been ours! Stand up like men and fight!”

So the Philistines fought desperately, and Israel was defeated again. The slaughter was great; 30,000 Israelite soldiers died that day. The survivors turned and fled to their tents. The Ark of God was captured, and Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were killed.

A man from the tribe of Benjamin ran from the battlefield and arrived at Shiloh later that same day. He had torn his clothes and put dust on his head to show his grief. Eli was waiting beside the road to hear the news of the battle, for his heart trembled for the safety of the Ark of God. When the messenger arrived and told what had happened, an outcry resounded throughout the town.

“What is all the noise about?” Eli asked.

The messenger rushed over to Eli, who was ninety-eight years old and blind. He said to Eli, “I have just come from the battlefield—I was there this very day.”

“What happened, my son?” Eli demanded.

“Israel has been defeated by the Philistines,” the messenger replied. “The people have been slaughtered, and your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were also killed. And the Ark of God has been captured.”

When the messenger mentioned what had happened to the Ark of God, Eli fell backward from his seat beside the gate. He broke his neck and died, for he was old and overweight. He had been Israel’s judge for forty years.

Eli’s daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near her time of delivery. When she heard that the Ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and husband were dead, she went into labour and gave birth. She died in childbirth, but before she passed away the midwives tried to encourage her. “Don’t be afraid,” they said. “You have a baby boy!” But she did not answer or pay attention to them.

She named the child Ichabod (which means “Where is the glory?”), for she said, “Israel’s glory is gone.” She named him this because the Ark of God had been captured and because her father-in-law and husband were dead. Then she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God has been captured.”

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Matthew 23: 25-28 (New English Translation)

Reader: Fiona Hutcheson

“Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside may become clean too!

“Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs that look beautiful on the outside but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you look righteous to people, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

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HYMN: O Holy Spirit, come to bless

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/EKQ6fpglHXg>

O Holy Spirit, come to bless
your waiting church, we pray:
we long to grow in holiness
as children of the day.

Great Gift of our ascended king,
his saving truth reveal,
our tongues inspire his praise to sing,
our hearts his love to feel.

O come, creator Spirit, move
as on the formless deep;
give life and order, light and love,
where now is death or sleep.

We offer up to you, O Lord,
ourselves to be your throne,
our every thought and deed and word
to make your glory known.

O Holy Spirit, Lord of might,
through you all grace is given:
grant us to know and serve aright
one God in earth and heaven.

*Based on ‘O Holy Ghost, thy people bless’ Henry Williams Baker (1821-77) © Jubilate Hymns Ltd;
Video from https://www.jubilate.co.uk/songs/o_holy_spirit_come_to_bless*

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Lord Jesus Christ

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/hJDH0gVVU04>

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's son;
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in.
Jesus our love for you we sing—
living Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God;
you have commanded us to do
this in remembrance, Lord, of you:
into our lives your power breaks through—
living Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one with us, Mary's son;
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free,
living Lord Jesus, help us see
you are Lord!

Lord Jesus Christ, we would come to you,
live our lives for you, Son of God;
all your commands we know are true,
your many gifts will make us new:
into our lives your power breaks through—
living Lord!

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HOLY COMMUNION: THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord Jesus invites to his table
all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness.
We come to his table in faith,
humbly confessing our sins
and turning to God from our own way.
Rather than trusting in anything else to save us,
we hear the good news that Christ died for us,
and we trust in Christ
and confess him as Lord.

THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
you made us in your image,
to love you and to be loved by you.

When we turned away,
and our love failed, your love pursued us.
By the suffering, death, and resurrection
of your only Son Jesus Christ
you delivered us from slavery to sin and death
and made with us a new covenant.

And so, remembering all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
that they would be for us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit
make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we join in his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
and with the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, now and for ever.

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.**

REMEMBERING WHAT JESUS DID AND SAID

We do this because Jesus himself did it
and told us to do it too.

On the night when he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread
And, after giving thanks to God, he broke it and said
*'This is my body which is for you;
do this in memory of me.'*

Later he took the cup and said:
*'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.
Whenever you drink it,
do it in memory of me.'*

THE SHARING

Take, eat: the body of Christ, broken for you.
Do this, remembering him.

The new covenant sealed by Christ's blood
which was shed that the sins of many might be forgiven.
As you drink, remember him.

THE PEACE *(using British Sign Language)*

The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.

HYMN: In Christ alone my hope is found

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

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all –
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am Yours and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death –
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home –
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home –
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music. Adm. by Integrity Music.
Video © Common Ground Church, Cape Town*

THE BLESSING

As you have come to Christ,
now go with him and for him,
and may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
remain with you always. **Amen**

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Next week: KIP Joint Service: Holy Habits: Bible Teaching