

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 4th 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.

Our preacher today is Martin Pearce, a reader in the Church of Scotland.

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, <https://youtu.be/E-Z8tsc3HVK> follow the link which you'll find 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.

WELCOME (Neil Cape)

Welcome to St Mungo's: whether you are joining us from Penicuik or from further away, we pray that you will find blessing in this service. Our service is led this morning by Martin Pearce, a Church of Scotland reader for over 20 years.

Martin says: I am currently serving as a pastoral assistant at St Cuthbert's in Edinburgh and helping out will pulpit supply at several churches in the city, not least to give ministers such as John (*Urquhart, St Mungo's minister*) a well earned break. It is my privilege and joy to worship with you today.

Our **Call to Worship** is arguably the most famous line in the Bible translated to over 7000 languages:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John3:16)

HYMN: Be still for the presence of the Lord

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOCfPjLOvC4>

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Come bow before him now with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found; we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant king of light.
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for Him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION (Martin Pearce)

Gracious Lord,
we thank you for gathering us together.
Online or on the phone,
wherever we are, whatever we're doing
we know you are with us now.

We thank you for all that you have given us over the years, and we gladly praise you.
We praise you for creating the universe and the world,
and all the beauty we can enjoy during the summertime.
We thank you for your son and our saviour Jesus,
for all he continues to teach through your holy word;
And we thank you for your holy spirit,
our strength and comforter during times of trial.
We thank you that Christ is a light who guides us every day when we turn to him.
We thank you that Christ is a shield that is over us, under us, and beside us,
on our left and on our right.

We ask that this day you will be in the heart of each to whom we speak,
in the mouth of each who speaks unto us.
This day be within and without us:
lowly and meek, yet all powerful.
Christ as a light, Christ as a shield
Christ beside us on our left and on our right.

Lord strengthen us now
as we turn to you and to the community around us.
Lead us to the people that need to know you
in this world that is hurting,
this world that needs your healing presence.

May our hearts overflow with thankfulness
for all that you have given us
and for all that you invite us to do.
But we know we often fail to do and say what you taught us to do and say.
And therefore with penitent hearts we seek your forgiveness, as we pray in silence.

Gracious Lord, forgive us this day for our wrongdoings,
and help us to have a fresh start this very day
as we say together the Lord's Prayer:

**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: Speak, O Lord, as we come to you

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwOilmRZYDo>

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of your holy word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see,
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of power that can never fail;
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises;
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

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THE STORY SO FAR

King Saul has followed his own ways and has rejected God's ways. He has become an evil man and wishes to eliminate all rivals to his throne, notably David. God has abandoned Saul and left him to his murderous behaviour.

David, the former shepherd boy and conqueror of Goliath, was recognised by many in King Saul's kingdom as a potential king because he, now in his 20s, has become a very able military leader, frequently defeating the larger forces of the Philistines.

King Saul could not cope with David's popularity and military prowess, and hence through the chapters we have been reading recently King Saul pursues David, whom he wants to kill.

By now David is described as an outlaw with a small band of loyal men.

These chapters are difficult for us to follow because many of the cities and leaders are unfamiliar to us and there are many of them to contend with.

Most of the places and events take place within a radius of 60 miles of Jerusalem.

At the end of the reading we are reminded of the qualities of a true God fearing man - Jonathan - Saul's son and heir - who supports David and helps David to escape the murderous clutches of King Saul on several occasions.

BIBLE READINGS (both from NIV translation)

Reader: Fiona Hutcheson

1 Samuel 23: 1-18

When David was told, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors," he inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?"

The Lord answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

But David's men said to him, "Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!"

Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand." So David and his men

went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah. ⁶ (Now Abiathar son of Ahimelek had brought the ephod down with him when he fled to David at Keilah.) Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah, and he said, "God has delivered him into my hands, for David has imprisoned himself by entering a town with gates and bars." And Saul called up all his forces for battle, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

When David learned that Saul was plotting against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod." David said, "Lord, God of Israel, your servant has heard definitely that Saul plans to come to Keilah and destroy the town on account of me. Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me to him? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? Lord, God of Israel, tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will."

Again David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah surrender me and my men to Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will."

So David and his men, about six hundred in number, left Keilah and kept moving from place to place. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he did not go there. David stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands.

While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

Romans 12: 9-13

Love must be sincere.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in love.

Honour one another above yourselves.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Share with the Lord's people who are in need.

Practice hospitality.

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REFLECTION: Love in Action (Martin Pearce)

The Church of Scotland membership Vows:

I believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
and I confess Jesus Christ as my saviour and Lord.

I promise to join regularly with our fellow Christians in worship on the Lord's Day.

I promise to be faithful in reading the Bible, and in prayer.

I promise to give a fitting proportion of my time, talents, and money
for the Church's work in the world.

I promise, depending on the grace of God,
to profess publicly my loyalty to Jesus Christ,
to serve him in my daily work,
and to walk in his ways all the days of my life.

HYMN: There is a redeemer

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SG3a7PTSFE>

There is a redeemer:

Jesus, God's own Son;

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,

Holy One.

Jesus my redeemer,

Name above all names.

Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,

Oh, for sinners slain.

*Thank you, oh my father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done.*

When I stand in Glory

I will see His face.

And there I'll serve my King forever

In that Holy Place.

*Thank you, oh my father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done.*

*Melody Green © 1982 Birdwing Music (ASCAP)/Ears to Hear Music (ASCAP)
(both admin. by EMI CMG Publishing)*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (David Hogg)

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down.

Your hymn writer summed it up so well, Lord, and we thank you now, and at all times, for the gift of love, that shapes and informs human relationships.

We thank you especially for that love of yours - a father's love, embodied in your son, Jesus; a limitless love, reaching to the heart of all things; a love that went even to the cross for our sake and our salvation.

Lord Jesus Christ, you command us to "Love one another."

We thank you that a sense of mutual dependency and responsibility has been reawakened during the pandemic: we pray that it may continue and grow in our community here and throughout the land.

We pray for the work of all churches and charities, support hubs and other agencies, social and medical, as they meet and minister to people's needs.

Lord, where people are anxious or fearful, alone or vulnerable or unloved, burdened by troubles or regrets, or mourning the loss of loved ones, let us meet you there, you, who are already in their midst.

Deepen our love for you and make us ready to follow wherever you Spirit leads, taking a gospel of love and peace to your changed and changing world.

Finally, Lord, we reach out in prayer and in some material support to the congregations in our Presbytery's twinning with Saöntalpur, as they live through the covid crisis with fewer resources and infrastructure. Strengthen their faith at this difficult time.

And these prayers we make in your name.

Amen.

HYMN: Thine be the Glory

Watch video at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1d2wK-IQhSRWOR8tGSvi-fhz2EGhq0r6T>

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmond Louis Budry, tr. Richard Birch Hoyle (1923) for World Student Christian Federation.

THE BLESSING: Jude 1: 24&25 (Martin Pearce)

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour - be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore!

And the blessing of God the Father, God the son and God the only Holy Spirit be with you this day and ever more. **Amen**

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Next week's preacher:

Fiona Devoy

1 Samuel 24 v 1-22: 'A man of honour'.