

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021



One of a series of joint services  
for the Church of Scotland  
congregations in the town,  
on the theme of



This act of worship has been prepared to allow us all to spend some time with God, knowing that others are sharing in it. This morning we focus on signs and wonders.

We thank all 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, you'll find it here

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbsh45OCWOurcjokxqE69tQ>

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.

NB The phone recording of the service is an abridged version –  
the full service is available on YouTube.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

### SONG: All who are thirsty

Watch video <https://youtu.be/PlmMdYFkny0>

All who are thirsty,  
all who are weak,  
come to the fountain--  
dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy,  
as deep cries out to deep.

*(We sing)*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

All who are thirsty,  
all who are weak,  
come to the fountain--  
dip your heart in the stream of life.

Let the pain and the sorrow  
be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy,  
as deep cries out to deep.

*(We sing)*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come!*

Songwriters: Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

Guitar/Arrangement/Vocals: Jonathan Koh; Piano: Moses Tan; Bass: Thomas Ee; Drums: Low Han Quan;

Mixed by: Jerry Chua

## **WELCOME**

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH (Peter Wood)**

Holy God,  
as we gather here in this place,  
or in our living room or elsewhere at home,  
we turn our lives over to you,  
inviting you to draw close to us.

You are with us by the power of your Holy Spirit.

You come to us.

You don't wait for us to put on our best clothes,  
get our words right or get our life sorted.

You come to us.

Generous God,  
your love is greater than any fear that can possess us--  
your love casts out fear.

Your love is brighter than anything else that dazzles us.

It is more vibrant than the green grass after the rain.

Your love is the foundation of our lives.

It's the frame of our lives.

Your love reminds me who I am  
and that I am in relationship with this earth  
and with those around me and with you.

Lifegiving God,  
we thank you for all that has awoken us to what matters this week.

For times when we've been moved,  
When we have been touched by others.  
When we have marvelled and wondered at the intricacy and beauty of creation.  
When in silence, we have sensed your presence.

All-giving God,  
in Jesus, you showed us how to live,  
how to share all that you give us, including ourselves.  
In Jesus, you have forgiven us.  
We are no longer bound to carry guilt or shame around with us.

*I wonder today if there's anything that you need to leave with God.  
Perhaps you need to leave whatever it is that's limiting your thinking,  
or where you can only see darkly with gloomy eyes.*

God, would you come and grant new vision and hope and expectation.  
Maybe it's to leave where we think less of others than you do...  
or where life has become a routine rather than a gift...

God, in Jesus, you offer us healing and hope, and refreshing new life,  
whatever we have done or not done, however we feel.  
We see in the cross of Christ, the power of forgiveness  
and the beginning of a new way-- the way of hope,  
not just for ourselves, but for our community, and for this world.

God of the past,  
you have made us. You have travelled with us.  
You have brought us to this day.  
Grant us eager and open minds and hearts,  
expectant to hear what you have for us.  
We pray this in Jesus' name.

**Amen**

**SONG: I will offer up my life in spirit and truth**

Watch video <https://youtu.be/fG5EVeGt00>

I will offer up my life in spirit and truth,  
Pouring out the oil of love, as my worship to you.  
In surrender I must give my every part.  
Lord, receive the sacrifice of a broken heart.

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring  
to so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?  
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung  
as a praise of Your name for the things You have done?  
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,  
of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

You deserve my every breath,  
for You've paid the great cost:  
giving up your life to death, even death on a cross.  
You took all my shame away, there defeated my sin,  
opened up the gates of heaven and have beckoned me in.

*Jesus, what can I give, what can I bring  
to so faithful a Friend, to so loving a King?  
Saviour, what can be said, what can be sung  
as a praise of Your name for the things You have done?  
Oh, my words could not tell, not even in part,  
of the debt of love that is owed by this thankful heart.*

Words & music: Matt Redman © 1994 Thankyou Music (Adm. Integrity Music Ltd

Sung by Frodsham Methodist Church Cloud Choir accompanied by Andrew Ellams; producer: Rev A Emison

## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **Exodus 35: 20-29 (ESV)**

**Reader: John Urquhart**

Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments.

So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the Lord. And everyone who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the Lord's contribution. And everyone who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it. And every skilful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair.

And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord.

### **Malachi 3: 10-12 (ESV)**

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

### **Romans 12: 6-9 (ESV)**

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

### **All: Thanks be to God**

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

### **SERMON: All Things in Common**

#### **PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION (Eunice Astles)**

Please join in the response after each long pause, which is:

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

*Let us pray together.*

God, you are a generous and extravagant God.

You lavish your love on us and abound in grace and goodness.

You are not greedy or selfish.

You sacrificially gave your Son for us, despite the cost.

And your creation demonstrates your abundant and giving variety.

Help us to be like you, generous and extravagant

in the way we live our lives and give to others.

May we be imitators of you.

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

Lord, we see the negative effects

of greed and selfishness in our communities,

where conflict arises over the unfair share of wealth.

We cry out for more equity and justice,

particularly between nations.

We pray for those in the developing world, especially,

who struggle to get enough to eat each day.

Help us to be generous

to those who are not as financially fortunate as we are,

either locally or abroad.

May we be ever grateful for what we have been given.

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

Father, we recognise that we often hold on too dearly to our possessions and wealth, out of fear and mistrust. You know you call us to trust you for our provision because you care for us more than even the birds and the flowers. Help us to see where we need to let go and rest in your arms.

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

Lord, we see the terrible consequences of not being generous in our thoughts. We see strife and division in our nation and across the world where thoughts become intransigent and harsh. We pray for dogmatic belief systems, like ISIS and the Taliban, or racism and prejudice. Such negative thought systems destroy harmony and peace. Help us to cling to and promote godly thoughts. We pray for godly people to influence the thinking of people towards your ways of truth and justice.

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

You call us to serve others. Help us to be generous in the ways we serve, to give sacrificially. Help us to step out of our comfort zones and serve people we may not know or even like. May we grow in the fruit of the Holy Spirit as we serve, being ever more patient, kind, gentle and joyful.

**Give us a heart like yours, God.**

Jesus, you are always there when we come to you, ever generous with your time and your presence. We thank you for those who love us and give their time to us. Help us to overcome our hurry sickness, when we feel we have far too many important things to do, to stop and give our time and attention to one of our brothers and sisters. May we respond quickly and generously to your promptings. Thank you for all you do for us and the way you show us to live.

**Give us a heart like yours, God. Amen.**

**SONG: It is well with my soul (When peace like a river)**

Watch video <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AV9y8ut-Kwff-fUQVvUP7cZjGMhy7c5g/view>

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul).*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;  
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
if Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
you will whisper your peace to my soul.

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

But, Lord, it's for you, for your coming we wait,  
the sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul)*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Horatio Spafford (1828-1888); tune by Philip Bliss (1838-1876)*

*Mairi Bowlerwell, accompanied by John Bowlerwell, Dunfermline East Church of Scotland*

## **BENEDICTION**

And all God's people said: **'Amen'**

**Next week at St Mungo's:  
'David Hears of Saul's Death' (2 Samuel 1)**

**Next KIP service: Sunday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, led by the Rev John Urquhart  
"Eating together"**