

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 9th May 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 . Full video <https://youtu.be/wtPGOp4E-cA>

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.**

INTROIT: As we are gathered, Jesus is here

Watch video at https://youtu.be/e_Phi2x_1Lo

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;
one with each other, Jesus is here,
joined by the Spirit, washed in the blood,
part of the Body, the Church of God.

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;
one with each other, Jesus is here.

John Daniels © 1979 Authentic Publishing, Adm. Integrity Music

Recording: John and Mairi Bowlerwell from Dunfermline East Church

WELCOME to St Mungo's on the sixth Sunday of Easter.

Let us worship God.

HYMN: The Lord's my Shepherd (*Psalm 23*)

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/i7loyTqvFHQ>

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters;
his goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in you alone.

*And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me;
your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil;
and my cup, it overflows with joy:
I feast on his pure delights.

And I will trust in you alone....

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me,
and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in you alone....

Stuart Townend © 1996 Thankyou Music (Adm. by Integrity Music)

Video courtesy of Major Andrew Bale, Southend Citadel, Salvation Army

PRAYER (*based on Psalm 23*)

Lord Jesus,
You are the good shepherd
and you watch over your sheep.
Watch over us, we pray.
When we wander,
shout after us
and call us back,
or if you have to,
fetch us back

when we don't know the way.

When we fall down
and get dirty
lift us up and clean us off.

When we are frightened,
Let us know
that you are beside us
all the way.

For you are our strong protector
even when those who would harm us are near.

When we get hurt,
bandage our wounds
and pour in your healing oil.

We trust in your goodness
and never-failing love.

They will follow us
like your faithful sheepdogs
all our life through
and we will live
in your company for ever.

Lead us, good shepherd,
in the right paths,
today and every day,
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

Loosely based on a prayer by Bruce Prewer

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: Video: Florence's Story

Watch video: <https://youtu.be/d2g2VYJ2sxc>

You are invited to give a donation to CHRISTIAN AID either at church or at:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

THE STORY SO FAR

Saul and Samuel have finally fallen out completely. Saul has again not fulfilled what he agreed to when becoming king: he has, in effect, broken Israel's fledgling constitution by not listening to the word of the Lord through the prophet Samuel. This time it's over the long-established practice of how to conduct war with the Amalekites.

What's more, Saul, first tries to say how he has obeyed the Lord's command, when, evidently, he has bowed to pressure and has not fully complied. Then, when Samuel challenges him, instead of having a sincere change of heart, he hurriedly and shallowly confesses his sin. From Samuel's reaction, we may assume this is Saul's desperate

attempt to keep Samuel 'on side', to 'keep up appearances' before the people. Like many since, he attempts to engage in a cover-up rather than remain fully accountable. As Samuel is leaving, Saul makes a desperate attempt to grab at the corner of Samuel's robe and keep him there. The robe tears and Samuel tells him: 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you today, and he has given it to your neighbour who is better than you.'

Saul has been rejected as king, but God, who is rich in mercy, still gives him time to repent. Will Saul use the opportunity to turn again to the Lord?

BIBLE READINGS (Reader: Janis Hogg)

1 Samuel 15:35-16:23 (NET Bible)

Until the day he died, Samuel did not see Saul again. Samuel did, however, mourn for Saul, but the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long do you intend to mourn for Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with olive oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have selected a king for myself from among his sons."

Samuel replied, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!" But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you should do. You will anoint for me the one I point out to you."

Samuel did what the Lord told him. When he arrived in Bethlehem, the elders of the city were afraid to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?" He replied, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." So he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel noticed Eliab and said to himself, "Surely, here before the Lord stands his chosen king." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't be impressed by his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. God does not view things the way people do. People look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Then Jesse presented Shammah. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Is that all the young men?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest one, but he's taking care of the flock." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we cannot turn our attention to other things until he comes here."

So Jesse had him brought in. Now he was ruddy, with attractive eyes and a handsome appearance. The Lord said, "Go and anoint him. This is the one." So Samuel took the horn full of olive oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day onward. Then Samuel got up and went to Ramah.

Now the Spirit of the Lord had turned away from Saul, and an *evil spirit** from the Lord tormented him. Then Saul's servants said to him, "Look, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord instruct his servants who are here before you to look for a man who knows how to play the lyre. Then whenever the evil spirit from God comes upon you, he can play the lyre and you will feel better." So Saul said to his servants, "Find me a man who plays well and bring him to me." One of his attendants replied, "I have seen a son of Jesse in Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave warrior and is articulate and handsome, for the Lord is with him."

So Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is out with the sheep." So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a container of wine, and a young goat and sent them to Saul with his son David. David came to Saul and stood before him. Saul liked him a great deal, and he became his armour-bearer. Then Saul sent word to Jesse saying, "Let David be my servant, for I am very pleased with him."

So whenever the spirit from God would come upon Saul, David would take his lyre and play it. This would bring relief to Saul and make him feel better. Then the evil spirit would leave him alone.

** Or 'an injurious spirit'; cf. NLT 'a tormenting spirit.' [ESV harmful; NKJV distressing] The phrase need not refer to an evil, demonic spirit. The Hebrew word translated 'evil' may refer to the character of the spirit or to its effect upon Saul. If the latter, another translation option might be 'a mischief-making spirit'*

Matthew 5:13 (NET Bible)

Jesus said: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its flavour, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people!"

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SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: Cornerstone

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/tFOJba6xEZ4>

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly trust in Jesus' name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone:
weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.*

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil--
my anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless I stand before the throne--
faultless I stand before the throne.

Christ alone, Cornerstone:
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

Christ alone, Cornerstone:
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

Christ alone, Cornerstone:
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all.

Words & Music by Edward Mote (1797-1874), Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin and Reuben Morgan
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Video by Dave Lowe and the Manor Church of England Academy Worship Band and Community Choir during Covid-19 Social Distancing.

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES (led by Bill Webster)

Father God,

Thank you that we can call you Father, that you **want** us to call you Father.
Thank you for the love and care you have for all your children – for us and for every single person on this planet.

Lord, we pray today for leaders and decision-makers all over the world.
They have big decisions to make, faced with global challenges like climate change, third-world poverty and hunger, and the covid pandemic, now well into its second year. There's always a temptation for politicians to go for what they think will be popular in the short term.

But Lord, please give them your wisdom, as well as the courage to go with what is right and necessary, wherever that might take them - and us.

For Lord, **we** need to be looking in the right direction too.

If we've been selfish, or indifferent to the sufferings of other people, we confess that to you now, and ask you to change our hearts, so that we pass on to our brothers and sisters a small part of the love you have already freely given us.

And at the beginning of Christian Aid Week we pray that although fundraising has been so very difficult for more than a year, Christian Aid and many other similar organisations will have the resources they need to bring essential short-term and long-term help to millions of people who otherwise will have no hope.

We ask all these things in the name of the Lord Jesus,

Amen

HYMN: I will sing the wondrous story

Watch video at https://drive.google.com/file/d/12wjYvXnA_OOD1JGFqcWLR3VC-icZr4d/view

I will sing the wondrous story, of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory for the cross of Calvary.

*Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory, gathered by the crystal sea.*

I was lost: but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me back into the narrow way.

Faint was I, and fears possessed me, bruised was I from many a fall,
hope was gone, and shame distressed me: but his love has pardoned all.

Days of darkness still may meet me, sorrow's path I oft may tread;
but his presence still is with me, by his guiding hand I'm led.

*I Will Sing the Wondrous Story, Emu Music, Francis H. Rowley, Rowland Hugh Prichard,
Philip Percival, Alanna Glover, CCLI Song # 7125870*

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: David, God and the Defiant Giant