

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 15th November 2020

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 https://youtu.be/Eq-mQ5_o6rU also on our website: www.stmungos.freeuk.com 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: Be not afraid

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/m0TqHiZpw7s>

You shall cross the barren desert,
but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

*Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
and death is at your side,
know that I am with you through it all.

*Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

Blessèd are your poor,
for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,

for one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you
all because of me, blessed, blessed are you!

*Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come, follow me, and I will give you rest.*

*© 1975, 1978, Bob Dufford, SJ, and OCP Publications (based on Isaiah 43:2-3, Luke 6:20)
Sung by Chris Brunelle*

WELCOME to St Mungo's. Let us worship God.

HYMN: All my hope on God is founded

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/W3LCGh02Vew>

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

*Original words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680) (Meine Hoffnung stehet feste)
Translator: Robert Bridges (1844-1930); sung in St Alban's Church, Bristol*

PRAYER

Living God,
we thank you for your word of hope in the Scriptures—
your promise to Abraham that, through his offspring,
all the world would be blessed;
for your repeated reassurances to Jacob
and throughout the history of your ancient people.

We thank you for the word of Jesus to his followers
that he would rise again on the third day,
or the word of the angels to the disciples,
that, as they'd seen him depart into heaven,
so he would return.

We thank you for this message of hope
at the heart of the gospel,
the assurance that, whatever may seem to deny it,
your loving plan for the world will emerge victorious.

We thank you for what that means for us today:
we can trust you and have confidence,
that when life is hard and the future looks bleak,
we can know that your never-failing love continues
and your purpose endures.

Father, forgive us that we find it hard to live up to this.
We need your grace in Jesus.
Help us to put our hand in yours,
and walk wherever you will lead us,
confident that, though everything else may fail, you never will.

So we come in faith, to offer our worship,
and to dedicate our lives once more to your service,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Based on a prayer of Nick Fawcett

THE STORY SO FAR

Last time, we saw the culmination of the story, from the point of view of Joseph dealing with his brothers, ostensibly harshly, but all the while intending good to them. Today, we turn back a page or two, to read the story's puzzling twists from Jacob's point of view. In chapter 43, Jacob reaches a low point: he's placed in a situation where he perceives only the merest glimmer of hope, but he still looks to God for mercy and help, but sorrowfully and resignedly.

BIBLE READINGS: read by Fiona Hutcheson

Genesis 43: 1-15 (New International Version)

Now the famine was still severe in the land. So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, 'Go back and buy us a little more food.'

But Judah said to him, 'The man warned us solemnly, "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you." If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, "You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you."'

Israel asked, 'Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?'

They replied, 'The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. "Is your father still living?" he asked us. "Do you have another brother?" We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, "Bring your brother down here"?''

Then Judah said to Israel his father, 'Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life. As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice.'

Then their father Israel said to them, 'If it must be, then do this: put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift – a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake. Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.'

So the men took the gifts and double the amount of silver, and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.

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Luke 12: 31-33 (New Testament for Everyone)

This is what you should search for: God's kingdom! Then all the rest will be given you as well. Don't be afraid, little flock. Your father is delighted to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Make yourselves purses that don't wear out, a treasure in heaven that lasts for ever, where the thief doesn't come near and the moth doesn't destroy.

Scripture quotations from The New Testament for Everyone are copyright © Nicholas Thomas Wright 2011

SHORT ADDRESS

HYMN: God moves in a mysterious way

Listen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VC4DsqEFQA8>

God moves in a mysterious way,
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs,
and works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence,
he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
and he will make it plain.

Text: William Cowper (1731-1800)

Sung by the choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and used with permission

Or you may like to watch and listen to this alternative version, which we'll be using in church: <https://youtu.be/vCca-8HDiVg>

God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
of never-failing skill,
he treasures up his bright designs
and works his sovereign will.

Take courage now, you fearful saints;
the clouds you so much dread
are big with mercy and shall break
in blessings on your head.

*And I will trust the hands that made the starry heavens,
and I will trust the wounds of Calvary,
and I will trust and I will not be afraid
for all his ways are love.*

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence,
he hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

Music by Graham Kendrick.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800) and Graham Kendrick © 2017 Make Way Music
www.grahamkendrick.co.uk

(For copyright reasons, we cannot use this on the Youtube video)

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

Heavenly Father,
we trust in your unfailing goodness and mercy.
Help us, a part of your church,
to reflect the light of Jesus into a dark world.
Purify us, empower us and shape us.
Help us use the opportunities of the coming Advent season.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit and show us how.

As the UK becomes the first European nation
to exceed 50,000 coronavirus deaths,
we pray for people affected by the pandemic
here and around the world.

We ask that you give comfort those who are lonely;
bring your peace to those who are fearful,
and healing to those who are sick.
We pray that you would provide for people
who have lost jobs and livelihoods.
We thank you for everyone working to keep people safe.

In a record-breaking year for destructive weather,
where hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones
have cut short many lives and caused extensive damage,
we remember all who have lost loved ones, homes and businesses.
We pray for your consolation and provision for them.
We ask that the world's leaders
would make serious policy decisions on the climate crisis.

We make all our prayers in the name of Jesus
who taught us to pray, saying:

**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: Courage, brother, do not stumble

Watch video at: https://youtu.be/41Gr_6-2YRQ

Courage, brother, do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble:
trust in God and do the right.

Let the road be rough and dreary,
and its end far out of sight;
foot it bravely; strong or weary,
trust in God, trust in God,
trust in God and do the right.

Perish policy and cunning,
perish all that fears the light!
Whether losing, whether winning,
trust in God and do the right.
Some will hate you, some will love you,
some will flatter, some will slight;
heed them not, and look above you:
trust in God, trust in God,
trust in God and do the right.

Simple rule and safest guiding,
inward peace and inward might,
star upon our path abiding,
trust in God and do the right.
Courage, sister, do not stumble,
though your path be dark as night;
there's a star to guide the humble:
trust in God, trust in God,
trust in God and do the right.

*Words: Norman MacLeod (1812-1872)
Sung in St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen*

THE BLESSING

May the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

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Next week: Joseph: forgiveness and reconciliation