

Welcome to Penicuik: St Mungo's Parish Church online



Sunday 23rd August 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 which you'll find on our website: www.stmungos.freeuk.com Full Video <https://youtu.be/2c9DbiYuM6M>

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: Lord of life, we come to you

Listen at https://www.ionabooks.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/there_is_one_among_u4ad711ae1ea63.mp3

Lord of life, we come to you. Lord of all, our Saviour be, come to bless and to heal with the light of your love.

*Words: © Catherine Walker/St Mungo Music, Presbytery of St Leo the Great, Glasgow
Recorded by the Wild Goose Worship Group*

WELCOME



Animals grazing near Carlops

Welcome to St Mungo's.

We take up once more Jacob's story in Genesis. The story so far....

Jacob has fallen into the hands of Laban, his wily uncle who is keen to take advantage of him. It is a lesson to Jacob who has always relied on being more of a trickster than other people.

Through his experience Jacob is humbled and begins to look to God and God's promises to be with him.

Now God begins to act for Jacob and his growing family....

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 by St Alban's Church, Bristol*

PRAYER

God our Father, we praise you that you're at work through history
and through a people called for a special purpose.
You are the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

We praise you that, when the time was right, you sent Jesus,
as you promised long ago through your prophets,
and that this good news is written for us in the Bible.
We thank you there is forgiveness and new life
offered to all who turn from their own way of doing things
and trust themselves to him.

We praise you that you've given us an open Bible
and people to translate it
and make it available to more and more people.
We thank you for giving your Holy Spirit
to be at work in us and in all who believe.

Come to us again today, speak to our hearts,
make us aware of your love, cleanse our consciences,
focus our minds and shape our thinking.
Lead us in the way of Jesus,
who is himself the Way, the Truth and the Life. **Amen.**

HYMN: Your love will last forever

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/znPff7AY66E>

1-2-3-4!

*Your love will last forever:
it's like a mighty river
that flows and flows forever,
never stopping.*

*Your awesome love protects me.
When I sin, your love corrects me.
You're faithful to direct me
always to your love.*

And when I think of all you've done,
there's no love greater than this:
you freely gave your precious Son
to die for all my sins.

1-2-3-4!

*Your love will last forever:
it's like a mighty river
that flows and flows forever,
never stopping.*

*Your awesome love protects me.
When I sin, your love corrects me.
You're faithful to direct me
always to your love.*

And when I choose to disobey
you lead me back to your truth;
you show the fullness of Your love
by making me like you!

1-2-3-4!

*Your love will last forever:
it's like a mighty river
that flows and flows forever,
never stopping.*

*Your awesome love protects me.
When I sin, your love corrects me.
You're faithful to direct me
always to your love.*

*Words and music by Bob Kauflin © 2004 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)
Sung by Jamie Sperling and Kate Sharp with All-Age Worship from All Souls*

BIBLE READING: Genesis 30:25-31:13 (The Message)

Reader: Agnes Ovenstone

After Rachel had had Joseph, Jacob spoke to Laban, “Let me go back home. Give me my wives and children for whom I’ve served you. You know how hard I’ve worked for you.”

Laban said, “If you please, I have learned through divine inquiry that God has blessed me because of you.” He went on, “So name your wages. I’ll pay you.”

Jacob replied, “You know well what my work has meant to you and how your livestock has flourished under my care. The little you had when I arrived has increased greatly; everything I did resulted in blessings for you. Isn’t it about time that I do something for my own family?”

“So, what should I pay you?”

Jacob said, “You don’t have to pay me a thing. But how about this? I will go back to pasture and care for your flocks. Go through your entire flock today and take out every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-coloured lamb, every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. That way you can check on my honesty when you assess my wages. If you find any goat that’s not speckled or spotted or a sheep that’s not black, you will know that I stole it.”

“Fair enough,” said Laban. “It’s a deal.”

But that very day Laban removed all the mottled and spotted billy goats and all the speckled and spotted nanny goats, every animal that had even a touch of white on it plus all the black sheep and placed them under the care of his sons. Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Meanwhile Jacob went on tending what was left of Laban’s flock.

But Jacob got fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled the bark, leaving white stripes on them. He stuck the peeled branches in front of the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. When the flocks were in heat, they came to drink and mated in front of the streaked branches. Then they gave birth to young that were streaked or spotted or speckled. Jacob placed the ewes before the

dark-coloured animals of Laban. That way he got distinctive flocks for himself which he didn't mix with Laban's flocks. And when the sturdier animals were mating, Jacob placed branches at the troughs in view of the animals so that they mated in front of the branches. But he wouldn't set up the branches before the feebler animals. That way the feeble animals went to Laban and the sturdy ones to Jacob.

The man got richer and richer, acquiring huge flocks, lots and lots of servants, not to mention camels and donkeys.

Jacob learned that Laban's sons were talking behind his back: "Jacob has used our father's wealth to make himself rich at our father's expense." At the same time, Jacob noticed that Laban had changed toward him. He wasn't treating him the same.

That's when God said to Jacob, "Go back home where you were born. I'll go with you."

So Jacob sent word for Rachel and Leah to meet him out in the field where his flocks were. He said, "I notice that your father has changed toward me; he doesn't treat me the same as before. But the God of my father hasn't changed; he's still with me. You know how hard I've worked for your father. Still, your father has cheated me over and over, changing my wages time and again. But God never let him really hurt me. If he said, 'Your wages will consist of speckled animals' the whole flock would start having speckled lambs and kids. And if he said, 'From now on your wages will be streaked animals' the whole flock would have streaked ones. Over and over God used your father's livestock to reward me.

"Once, while the flocks were mating, I had a dream and saw the billy goats, all of them streaked, speckled, and mottled, mounting their mates. In the dream an angel of God called out to me, 'Jacob!'

"I said, 'Yes?'

"He said, 'Watch closely. Notice that all the goats in the flock that are mating are streaked, speckled, and mottled. I know what Laban's been doing to you. I'm the God of Bethel where you consecrated a pillar and made a vow to me. Now be on your way, get out of this place, go home to your birthplace.'"

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HYMN: O God, our help in ages past

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/RFWFMZ1i4sY>

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is Thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.*

(Instrumental)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be Thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) based on Psalm 90

Tune: French (Dundee)

SHORT ADDRESS: *Living under a bad boss - living under God*

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 by St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen

PRAYERS FOR OTHER PEOPLE AND OURSELVES

God our Father,
you look with compassion on your people
who suffer unjust laws or under unfair conditions.
You will make things right for your chosen ones
who cry out to you day and night.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in North Korea and Pakistan.

Lord, have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love.

We pray particularly for the needs of the people of Beirut
and our partner churches in Lebanon.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

for as many years as we have seen trouble.

We pray for those who are anxious about university places,
Help them to place their anxieties on you
and trust you for their future.

Give justice to those who have unfairly lost their place.

May your deeds be shown to your servants,

your splendour to their children.

May our hopes always be rooted in our faith in Jesus.

Give us the assurance that you are with us
and that you always hear the prayers
that we make through our Lord Jesus,
who taught us to pray like this:

**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.**

Responses based on selected verses from Psalm 90.

HYMN: Glorious things of thee are spoken

Watch video at: <https://youtu.be/uDJMinJQ63c>

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove;
who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near;
thus deriving from their banner
light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna
which he gives them when they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name;
fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Sung by the New Scottish Hymns Band

THE BLESSING

May those who trust the Lord be like Mount Zion
that cannot be shaken and endures forever.

May that same Lord strengthen you in the Good News of Christ
so that through your witness
people might believe and obey him.

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

Psalm 125:1; Romans 16: 25-27.

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Next week: Jacob: Grappling with God