



The 4th Sunday of Easter

3rd May 2020

This morning's service is the third in our series of joint services for the Church of Scotland congregations in the town. Today we should have been gathered together in St Mungo's, but of course, at present, this is not possible. This act of worship has been prepared to allow us all 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 <http://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. Please note: the phone line recording of the sermon is an abridged version – the full sermon is available on YouTube.

WELCOME: Neil Cape (St Mungo's)

Welcome to this joint service of the Churches of Scotland in Penicuik. Whether you're from St Mungo's, Penicuik North or Penicuik South & Howgate, you're welcome. And if you're joining us from further afield, or if you've just found this service by chance on YouTube, you're more than welcome to join with us in worshipping God this morning.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Rev Graham Astles (Penicuik North Kirk)

From the rising of the sun to its setting in the West,

God's holy name be praised.

On the lips of children and babies in arms:

God's holy name be praised

In the visions of the young and the dreams of the old:

God's holy name be praised.

In the banquet halls of heaven

and the forgotten corners of our hearts:

God's holy name be praised.

Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord:

Amen, we praise the Lord.

Wild Goose Worship, Iona Community

HYMN: Let us build a house where love can dwell

Download video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKJgcv8SdnQ>

Let us build a house where love can dwell

and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive;

built of hopes and dreams and visions,

rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

All are welcome,

all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,

and words are strong and true,

where all God's children dare to seek

to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Marty Haugen (b.1950) © GIA Publications

PRAYER: Rev John Urquhart (St Mungo's)

God our Father,
You are faithful and good in the middle of a broken world.
We confess to you that we're part of that brokenness,
but we believe that you're restoring everything through Jesus.

We thank you that you want us to know you and relate to you:
that all your unimaginable resources are given to us in Jesus;
that he died and rose again for us,
that we might know peace with you,
and one day we'll be able to stand in your presence
and be found not guilty by you, all because of him.
We thank you that this Good News of Jesus
is spreading throughout the whole of your broken creation.

Come near to us today by your Holy Spirit,
as we come near to you.
Speak to us the word that we need:
your word of forgiveness, of promise, of challenge, of direction.

Enable us to give our worries into your hands,
together with all our prayers, all our requests and thanksgiving.

Help us to know our sins forgiven in Jesus

and our weakness strengthened in you.
Cause us to realise that we draw strength from him
as branches from the vine,
resting through faith and remaining in him,
our Saviour and our Lord.

Amen.

ALL-AGE TALK: Rev Peter Wood (Penicuik South & Howgate)

Download video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=golOYGYReZI>

HYMN: Spirit of God, unseen as the wind

Download video at: <https://youtu.be/dy8AZ46GKqc>

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth,
through it God's voice is heard.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove,
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

Margaret V. Old (1932-2001) © Scripture Union

READING: Joel 2:28-32a**New Living Translation**

“Then, after doing all those things,
I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.
In those days I will pour out my Spirit
even on servants—men and women alike.
And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth—
blood and fire and columns of smoke.
The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and terrible day of the Lord arrives.
But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved...

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READING: 1 John 2: 7-14**New Living Translation**

Dear friends, I am not writing a new commandment for you; rather it is an old one you have had from the very beginning. This old commandment—to love one another—is the same message you heard before. Yet it is also new. Jesus lived the truth of this commandment, and you also are living it. For the darkness is disappearing, and the true light is already shining.

If anyone claims, “I am living in the light,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves a fellow believer is living in the light and does not cause others to stumble. But anyone who hates a fellow believer is still living and walking in darkness. Such a person does not know the way to go, having been blinded by the darkness.

I am writing to you who are God’s children
because your sins have been forgiven through Jesus.
I am writing to you who are mature in the faith
because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.
I am writing to you who are young in the faith
because you have won your battle with the evil one.
I have written to you who are God’s children
because you know the Father.
I have written to you who are mature in the faith

because you know Christ, who existed from the beginning.
I have written to you who are young in the faith
because you are strong.
God's word lives in your hearts,
and you have won your battle with the evil one.

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ADDRESS: *The Church and the Future* (Graham Astles)

HYMN: Jesus you have called us

Download video at: <https://youtu.be/HzP6Mx3CiMM>

Jesus, you have called us:
Come, follow me,
take up your cross,
deny yourself
and live.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll trust you
and I'll go where you lead.

*I will follow,
I will follow,
I will follow
where you lead.*

Jesus, you have shown us
how we should live:
in sacrifice,
humility
and love.

Jesus, I am willing
though I am weak;
I'll follow you
with your Spirit in me.

PRAYERS for OTHERS and OURSELVES: David Tulloch (PNK)

Loving Father,
for early morning bird song, the signs of new life in plants and flowers,
the blossom on the trees, and the laughter of children in the warm spring sunshine,
we give you our thanks.

From a distance, we could be forgiven for thinking all was well with the world,
But, in reality, it is fragile and upside down amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
A world where the element of certainty and security we once enjoyed
has been eroded, by fear and uncertainty for the future.

We thank you that you are ever near, whatever we face,
wherever we are, you are there unseen, your hand is always at work.
We give you our thanks that you are our shepherd and guide through our lives,
in both good times and bad and that your love for us is unchanging and unconditional.
Safe in the knowledge of your love we can always trust in you.

We pray for all those affected by the virus
and for those who have lost their lives to the disease.
We pray also for their families and loved ones.
Surround them with your love.

We give thanks and pray
for the safety of those working in the health service and social care,
the emergency services and the prison service

We give thanks and pray for the safety of all who continue to work,
providing utility, transport, food, pharmacy, refuse, postal and other services.

We pray for the Government
and their scientific and medical advisers at Holyrood and Westminster
and the difficult decisions which they have to make, for the benefit of all.

We give thanks and pray for the research community,
as they search for and trial vaccines and treatments for the virus.

We give thanks and pray for teachers and support staff
who are staffing Hub schools and providing on line home learning, for their pupils.

We pray for those who are shielding and self-isolating on health grounds
who have had to come to terms with what having to do so brings.

We give thanks and pray for volunteers
within our communities, national agencies and charities
who are working to support them and make contact with them,
to help brighten their days.
Surround them with your love.

We pray for families where there is loss of income and uncertainty over future employment and concern about health of vulnerable loved ones.

We pray for children and young people who are missing contact with their friends and long for a hug from their grandparents. Surround them with your love.

Loving Father,

in the midst of these difficult and unpredictable times, we pray:

- that the sick be restored to health,
- the sorrowing may find comfort,
- the lonely, friendship,
- the bewildered, light for the road,
- the doubting certainty,
- and that every restless heart, through knowing your unchanging, unconditional love and faithfulness, may find rest in you.

In the knowledge, that even the darkest clouds are followed, in time, by sunshine, we ask all these prayers in the name of your Son our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

HYMN: Beauty for brokenness

Download video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKAXTinhhq4>

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,
Lord, in your suffering world this is our prayer.
bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,
sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,
cities for sanctuary, freedom to share,
peace for the killing fields, scorched earth to green,
Christ for the bitterness, his cross for the pain.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame,
until your justice burns brightly again;
until the nations learn of your ways,
seek your salvation and bring you their praise.

*God of the poor,
friend of the weak,
give us compassion, we pray,
melt our cold hearts,
let tears fall like rain.
Come, change our love
from a spark to a flame.*

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music

CLOSING PRAYER: Bill and Margaret Webster (St Mungo's)

Faithful God,

Making us, shaping us,
Blessing us, trusting us,

Leading us, disturbing us,
Empowering us, loving us,

God of our childhood,
God of our growing,

Stay with us on our journey
and bring us safely home.

Wild Goose Worship, Iona Community

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