



July 5th, 2020



This morning's service is one of a series of joint services for the Church of Scotland congregations in the town. 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 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://youtu.be/J37_xmGcsik : alternatively via the St Mungo's 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 20/25 seconds' silence, after which the recording should start. NB For technical reasons, the phone recording of the sermon may be slightly abridged.



WELCOME: John Urquhart (StM)

Welcome to this joint service for the Church of Scotland in Penicuik. Today, we are looking at music and the visual arts in Christian life.

Look at this picture of a window in St Mungo's that helps people remember Alexander Hay, who used to play the organ there.

The harp shows his love of music and how he liked to share it. Below that are lines suggesting organ pipes, for his career as an organist. The musical notes come from a dance tune called Sir George Clerk of Penicuik. Alexander was in the Scottish Country Dance Society demo team. They gave the window to the church in his memory.

In the Bible, music is at the heart of celebration and worship, and the visual arts have a place too. We can't cover all there is about the arts in the Bible and in the years since, there's so much.

However, we hope that this will stimulate you to think and respond to God.

Hymn: Angel voices ever singing

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/y6DAWtFm7j8>

Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.

For we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.

Words: Francis Pott (1861) (public domain)

Music: Edwin George Monk (1861)

PRAYER: John Urquhart (StM)

Father God,

we've come together to worship you for all that you are
and for Jesus, our Saviour, given for us,
and through your Holy Spirit, given to us.

We thank you for the gifts of music and the visual arts
for how they can stir our emotions
and nourish new thoughts within us.

Save us from singing with no thought as to the words we use,
or from offering empty praises with no substance,
with no consideration of your requirement for us to act justly.

Speak to us through the scriptures
and through everything we share in today

May we dedicate our lives to your service
and give glory to you through Jesus. **Amen.**

A PERSONAL STORY: Caroline Toms (PSKH)

HYMN: When I survey the wondrous cross

Watch video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCiGR-d6oJk>

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Words: Isaac Watts (1707) (public domain)

Music: Edward Miller (1790)

This portion of Chronicles looks at the preparations for building Solomon's temple.

Then Hiram king of Tyre answered Solomon with this letter:

"Solomon, because the Lord loves his people, he chose you to be their king." Hiram also said: "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, one with wisdom and understanding, who will build a temple for the Lord and a palace for himself.

"I will send you a skilled and wise man named Hiram-Abi. His mother was from the people of Dan, and his father was from Tyre. Hiram-Abi is skilled in working with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, and with purple, blue, and red thread, and expensive linen. He is skilled in making engravings and can make any design you show him. He will help your craftsmen and the craftsmen of your father David.

"Now send my servants the wheat, barley, oil, and wine you promised. We will cut as much wood from Lebanon as you need and will bring it on rafts by sea to Joppa. Then you may carry it to Jerusalem."

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REFLECTION: Moira Dickson (StM)

[*Jesus said:*] Think about how the flowers of the field grow; they do not work or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these! And if this is how God clothes the wild grass, which is here today and tomorrow is tossed into the fire to heat the oven, won't he clothe you even more, you people of little faith?

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REFLECTION: Moira Dickson (StM)

HYMN: You are God (Glorious)

Listen at http://streaming.resoundworship.org/loresmp3/you_are_god_med.mp3

You are God beyond the stars,
you are bigger than the skies,
you are greater than our minds can comprehend.
You are limitless in might,
you're the Lord of space and time,
you're the uncreated one, without beginning, without end.

*You are glorious,
you are glorious,
there is no-one who compares with you
in the heavens or the earth.*

Human words cannot describe
the height and depth of who you are,
every poem to your praise is incomplete.
There's no symphony or song
that could bring sufficient praise,
there's no harmony so grand, there is no melody so sweet.

*You are glorious,
you are glorious,
there is no-one who compares with you
in the heavens or the earth.*

No painter could portray the wonders of your worth,
your splendour fills the skies and echoes through the earth.
Our thoughts cannot contain the mystery of your ways,
but still our hearts are full with all-consuming praise.

*You are glorious,
you are glorious,
there is no-one who compares with you
in the heavens or the earth.*

*You are glorious,
you are glorious,
you are matchless in your majesty,
you are infinite in worth.
You are glorious.*

Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.

Saul's attendants said to him, 'See, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord command his servants here to search for someone who can play the lyre. He will play when the evil spirit from God comes on you, and you will feel better.'

So Saul said to his attendants, 'Find someone who plays well and bring him to me.'

One of the servants answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the lyre. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him.'

Then Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, 'Send me your son David, who is with the sheep.' So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them with his son David to Saul.

David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much, and David became one of his armour-bearers. Then Saul sent word to Jesse, saying, 'Allow David to remain in my service, for I am pleased with him.'

Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul; he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

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ADDRESS: **Graham MacDonald (PSKH)**
 Head of Music, Beeslack High School

HYMN: I will trust you in the darkness

Watch video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn_B-Inli9g

I will trust you in the darkness;
I will serve you in my pain.
I will worship in the wilderness
And will follow to the end.
For you are the suffering shepherd
And you know your sheep by name:
So, I will trust you in the darkness— once again.

I'll believe your word of comfort
When the light of life grows dim.
I will heed your voice at midnight
When the tempests rage within.
I will cling to Christ my saviour
Who has borne my sorrow's sting,
And I will trust you in the darkness— once again.

*O Lord Jesus, Saviour, brother, friend,
Come release us. Lord, come back again.*

I will praise your name in winter
When the skies are cold and grey.
I will feed upon your promises
And will cry to you each day.
I will lean upon your Spirit
And your word will I obey.
Yes, I will trust you in the darkness — come what may.

*O Lord Jesus, Saviour, brother, friend,
Come release us. Lord, come back again.*

I will trust you in the darkness;
On your faithfulness depend,
As I long for your appearing
And the day that never ends.
I will glory in the gospel
And your word of truth defend.
So I will trust you in the darkness — once again.
Yes, I will trust you in the darkness, O my friend.

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PRAYERS FOR OTHERS: Alice Symington (PNK)

Father, we come to you today knowing that you're always with us. You're with us in the darkness as well as in the light. You're all powerful and all knowing. All that we have comes from you. You know what we need and what's good for us, before we even ask. Too often we complain about our circumstances. Forgive us for our complaints and help us to learn to face every storm with confidence, knowing that you are in control.

We come to you today knowing that you care for us, knowing that you trust us to care for your world, your creation and your people.

The last few months have been strange, troubling and anxious but now we see some light ahead. Somehow, that almost seems more difficult. It is difficult to let go, to relax a little. Help us to face the future with hope and confidence.

We give you thanks for all our essential workers who have kept everything going. Many of them are in employment that has not always been properly valued. The last few months have shown just how much we need and rely on them. We pray that society remembers this as we slowly return to normality.

We pray for all the families who have lost a loved one, whether due to Covid-19 or to another cause. Although they have to mourn without the comfort of the physical presence of friends and family, may they still know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of others and may they feel the peace which only you can give.

Many in our community are worried about the future. They are unsure about their future employment and their financial security. We pray for them and for all who work to help them. We pray for those who own and operate businesses as they work to find the best way forward, to maximise employment while still ensuring physical safety.

We pray that our political leaders, both in Westminster and in Holyrood, will put the welfare of people before their own political interests. They have a difficult task balancing physical and mental health and the needs of the economy. We pray that they will be guided to take well thought out, sensible decisions.

Lord, although we may not see it at the time, good often comes from trials. In our community we have seen many instances of people helping others. In many ways society had become quite insular and self-focused. We give you thanks for all who have helped others and pray that the sense of community which is more apparent will continue as we move out of lockdown into our new future.

Most of us have had more time, time to slow down, to reconnect with hobbies which bring enjoyment, to phone friends and chat properly. For many walking in the woods and countryside around our town has been a solace. We have seen the wonders of the renewing of nature. In March the trees were bare and the undergrowth was sparse. Now there is an abundance of life. The trees, flowers, and plants are in full bloom. Bird song is all around. We thank you for this reminder that things change, nothing stays the same for ever.

Help us to face the future secure in the knowledge of your love and care for us. **Amen**

HYMN: Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Watch video at <https://youtu.be/b1MN3chW1Hk>

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1872) (public domain)

Music: Hubert Parry (1888) from Judith

A PARTING PRAYER (John Urquhart)

May God who sends peace from Heaven
cover us with peace,
and give peace to all God's people. **Amen**

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The following congregations were involved in this service:

- PNK: Penicuik North Church
- PSKH: Penicuik South with Howgate
- StM: Penicuik St Mungo's