

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL

SUNDAY SERVICE

17 JULY 2022



### Call to worship

Creator God, Your story has unfolded through time, from far-flung stars to intimate relationship. Help us, as we gather today to know and see You in new ways, in our song and in our silence, give us the courage to face our vulnerabilities and sit with You, confident in Your presence and love for us. Amen

### Immortal, invisible, God only wise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S59diW2U3q8&t=36s>

### Opening Prayer

Lord, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us in each moment. Thank you that your promises are true and your goodness never fails us. In this moment we come to you and we lay our lives before you. May we worship and adore you with every fibre of our being. May everything within us cry "Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come". And so today we join with all those who worship and confess you as Lord, from generations past and present, and with all the angels that sing in heaven of your greatness and beauty. We declare your goodness now and celebrate your greatness forevermore! In Jesus' name', Amen

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Bible Readings: Acts 4:23 -31 - The Believers Prayer

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one. Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

#### Children's address: The power of prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFmOCYj0Fvk&t=44s>

#### Reflection – The Believers' prayer

Having received Peter and John back from the council would have been a most joyous occasion. I am sure that many of the disciples expected them to also be crucified. However, the Lord had other plans for them. This was reflected in the prayer of the believers, which came from Psalm 2, which when read in full, fits even more seamlessly with the return of Peter and John from the hands of the religious leaders. Psalm 2 is considered a messianic Psalm of David. In other words, it's prophetic in nature. No doubt, the believers

present would have been reciting the rest of the Psalm in their heads, which reads as follows:

## Psalm 2

*Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

**Offering Song: Offering - Paul Baloche**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCh7AFvEVjk>

## Prayers for offerings

As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## Prayers for others and ourselves

We pray for those parts of the world where there is war and unrest. For those in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine, and so many other places where there is no peace. Hear the cries of those who are frightened, strengthen and inspire those who work for peace. And help us to be people of peace ourselves.

**All: Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.**

We pray for justice, that in our country and across the world leaders will be inspired by the Spirit to act fairly and wisely for the common good, and that our institutions would be guided and renewed by those seeking to hear Your voice.

**All: Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.**

We pray for families, in particular families struggling with rising living costs and the extra struggles that the school holidays bring. Help them to know Your peace and encouragement and help us to form communities which nurture and support families of all kinds.

**All: Loving Lord, help us to bring our needs to You.**

We pray for our Church, that at times of change and uncertainty we will be a place of refuge, silence and peace in our communities, that in a busy and troubled world we will have wisdom and compassion to support people in their pain; and guide them to find rest at Jesus' feet.

**All: Loving Lord, we bring our needs to You, in Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Hymn: Tell our, my soul, the greatness of the Lord**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srkfvhANW7Y&t=5s>

## Final prayer and blessing

Loving God, we have heard of Your power and might, and Your smallness and ordinariness, Your thirst for justice and Your desire for closeness in us.

As we leave this place, help us to take something of all these parts of You into the world with us, and to encounter You in our relationships and the events of our lives.  
Amen

May God bless us this week, May the power of the Father, friendship of the Son, encouragement of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and always, Amen