

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill
A Journey through Lent
18 February 2024



Song: In Christ alone my hope is found

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

CCLI Song # 3350395, Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

Call to worship (from Psalm 25)

God leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble God's way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep God's covenant.

Lord God, faithful in Your love, we come before You as we are, to worship You at the start of Lent. We come before You as we are, to hear what You have to say about our human journey. We come before You as we are, to seek Your help and strength for the week ahead, and for every week, through Jesus Christ our friend and saviour, Amen.

Prayer of Confession

We confess that we have thought too much about ourselves, and too little about Your ways. We confess that we have lived too much for ourselves, and too little for the sake of others. We confess that we have been taken up too much with ourselves, and too little with the demands of Your kingdom.

Forgive us when we go the wrong way or the foolish way. Have mercy on us, and upon the world we inhabit. Be patient with Your people, and help us to walk wisely and walk well, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

Prayer of thanksgiving

We give You thanks for a world of wonder and mystery, with so much to discover, and so many ways of doing that. We give You thanks for the variety of human life, and for the gospel which has been taken to every part of the world. We give You thanks for everything good that has happened this past week, for people whose kindness never meets the media, for prayers which have been answered, for situations which have resolved.

We give You thanks for opportunities to praise and rejoice, for opportunities to learn and to grow, for opportunities to reflect and be quiet.

(All) We give You thanks for this Lenten season, and for the One whose season it is. We give You thanks for all things that make our life simple and special. Good people and good gadgets, good friends and good food, good leaders and good lives around us. We give thanks for all who have walked before You in faith, and hope and love, and especially for those whose path has been part of ours. Above all, we thank You for Jesus Christ, who walked before You in trust and in truth, whose walk has inspired us and given us light, whose walk has taken Him to death and beyond for our sakes.

Rev Dr Jock Stein, retired CoS minister

Hymn: Be still my soul (Tune Finlandia)

1. Be still my soul the lord is on your side
Bear patiently the weight of grief or pain
Leave to your God to order and provide
Through every change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul your gracious heavenly friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end
2. Be still my soul your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Your hope your confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the winds and waves will know
3. Be still my soul the day is hastening on
When we shall be for ever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgotten loves pure joys restored
Be still my soul when change and tears are past
In His safe presence we shall meet at last

CCLI Song # 3315316, Jane Laurie Borthwick
| Kathrina Amalia von Schlegel, Praise Trust

Bible Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Reflection

Offerings/ song: How Great is our God
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEm9bDwPQP>

Prayer for offerings and others

We begin with a moment of silence,
to wonder at the mystery of prayer,
to reflect on our journeys and the journeys of
others, and to collect our thoughts before God . .
[pause]

We pray for those in leadership,
that they may bless the life and peace of the
nations, our common life here,
and especially the lives of the poor . . . [pause]

We pray the hungry might be fed, in body, mind
and spirit, that the thirsty be satisfied,
that God will hear the cry of those who long for
justice . . . [pause]

We pray for those we meet each day,
at work or in the street, online or in person,
at home or on the phone . . . [pause]

We pray for those who teach, in college and
school, in church and community,
praying that knowledge may build up and not
puff up, and that wisdom might guide the feet of
all who walk our world . . . [pause]

We pray for those with prophetic gifting,
that they hear rightly, and share rightly,
and that they have a wise community to assess
what they say . . . [pause]

We pray for the pastors and elders of our church
and area, that they may serve with unity, with
love and with joy . . . [pause]

We pray for one another,
that we grow up in faith during this period of
Lent, that we renew our hope,
that we open our hearts to the deep love of God .
.. [pause]

And all through Jesus Christ, in whose words we
say together,

Our Father ...

Closing hymn: How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear
It soothes his sorrows heals his wounds
And drives away his fear
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest
3. Dear name the rock on which I build
My shield and hiding place

My never-failing treasury
Filled with boundless stores of grace

4. Jesus my shepherd brother friend
My Prophet Priest and King
My Lord my life my way my end
Accept the praise I bring

CCLI Song # 42940

Final blessing

May the light of Your glory
illuminate our path this day and
every day, showing us the truth
of Your presence, amid the lies
of the unjust kingdoms of this
world. Turning to the tasks You
have prepared for us, And the
people You have set us among:
Make our feet sure and fleet, the
bearers of good news. Amen

May the grace...

