

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

Sunday Service - 27 August 2023

For the thoughts we have that go against You, for the words we use against others that cause hurt and bitterness, let us take comfort in knowing Your love is greater than all of our errors, and we thank You that our help is in Your name. In times of distress, when our fears engulf us and we feel unable to cope with the challenges that lie before us, be our strength, be our shield, be the reminder that our help is in Your name. Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks that through everything we face You are on our side, we are not swept away, our snares will be broken because our help is in Your name. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Bible Reading: Psalm 40:1-5

I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire. He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to

stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in Him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Brief Reflection

This beautiful Psalm of David is a joyful proclamation to Israel of what the Lord has provided for him personally. It is a great reminder of all that God has done for the nation of Israel historically and it announces **ALL** that God means to us collectively.

It is a wonderful example of the way that God carries out His plans and purposes in each of our lives. He does this in His own way and in His preferred time. He does this in order to develop our faith in His Word and to enlarge our trust in His never-failing goodness and grace.

God's people all over the world have discovered the unfolding of God's unchanging character, His gracious plan of redemption, and His faithfulness to His chosen people, Israel. God has promised in His Word to be an ever-present help in times of trouble and to work all circumstances of life together for the good of those that love Him with all their heart, fit in with His plan, and do not lean on their own understanding.

But this is not only a Psalm that has helped countless generations of men and women to develop their trust in the Lord and increase their faith in His Word. It is

Call to worship

Leader: Gathering prayer

All: Our hope is found in the name of God,

Leader: Maker of Heaven and Earth.

All: God's grace sustains us every day,

Leader: Our God is on our side.

All: We look to You and bring You praise,

Praise be to God.

Song 1: For I am building a people of power

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAVdz4a7s6s>

Song 2: I stand amazed in the presence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6z90HPZw6k>

Opening prayer and prayer of confession

God of kindness, we look to You when we are in times of trouble and difficulty. When we feel there is no one left on our side we pray that we remember our help is in Your name. When we fall short of the mark, when our frustrations take over, and lead us to anger, help us to reach back to You, to find Your peace, and to know that our help is in Your name.

a Messianic Psalm that, from beginning to end, casts a shadow on the passion of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It was during those three bitter hours on the Cross that God's only begotten Son took the brutal punishment for the sin of the whole world upon His own shoulders. The Father turned His face away from Him and the indwelling Holy Spirit departed as He was made sin - for us. And, as this Messianic Psalm discloses... Jesus waited patiently for the Lord.. He waited patiently, together with the dying thief. His soul waited patiently for three days in the depths of the earth for His prayer to be answered according to God's perfect will.

Jesus waited patiently for the LORD. The Lord inclined His ear to Him and heard His cry. He brought Him up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay and put a new song in My mouth, a song of praise to our God.

May we who have chosen to follow Christ, follow in the footsteps of our Saviour and wait patiently for the Lord, knowing that His plans and purposes are perfect... and that in due time He will incline His ear to our cry and graciously provide all we need, according to His riches in glory.

May our names be always included in the list of God's people who, as David sang, 'see and fear the LORD and [who] put their trust in Him'. David adds, 'Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods'.

Blessings and honour be unto the Ancient of Days, The Lord God Almighty, now and forever, Amen.

Offering/Hymn: Before the throne of God above

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

Prayers for others

Before this prayer ask the congregation to write down a prayer, a worry, or a challenge that they have been holding, and struggling with onto a piece of paper. During this prayer they will be invited to physically hand this struggle over to God, in the understanding that God is with us in every high and low, and help can be secured when we look towards Heaven. You will need a receptacle for the prayers and you may wish to have some appropriate accompanying music for the interactive part of this prayer.

Loving God, You are a God of strength, of hope and of mercy. You never leave or abandon us. We thank You for the faithfulness You show towards us when we have not earned it. We thank You that you are constant, good and true. You do not leave us. We thank You that You have always been with Your people, giving them comfort and guidance.

You were with Your people in Egypt, shining hope in the injustice of tyranny and hopelessness. You were with Your people as they have struggled as a Kingdom, bringing deliverance and grace.

You were with Your people in the early church as they stepped out in faith, giving them courage and direction. God, we thank You that You are the same God, who walks with us in our challenging times giving us comfort, grace and hope.

God give us courage to step out in faith, to live the lives You have called us to and not the one the world tells us to. God give us the grace to recognise our need for support, and not think we are better than others, but rather to live fully embraced by Your undeserved grace.

God give us hope that no matter what we face, or the difficulties that are dealing with right now, that You are with us, holding us and that if we turn our eyes on You we will find our way in truth and goodness.

Invite those who have written prayers to hand their prayers and worries over to God...

God, You are the same yesterday, today, tomorrow. You here with us. You carry us when we are weary, You give us rest, and You give us hope. We pray that You take these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts as we hand them over to You. God, may we have faith in Your deliverance and timing. Forgive us for when we pick up that which we have already laid at your feet. You are good, and You are with us. We thank You God, In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn: Lord Of All Hopefulness (Slane)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gg>

Sending

As we leave this place, let us step out in faith, knowing that our ever-present God, Creator of all, is on our side.

May our God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:13).

And, may the grace...