

## Order of Service for June 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

### ***Wait Patiently for the Lord***

Hello again and welcome to Hearsall at Home for the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Rev. David is currently away on his honeymoon, so this week we welcome back Robert Savoie, a Baptist minister in training, who will be bringing us God's message today.

#### Call to Worship

Let us relax, calm our minds and focus ourselves on the presence of God. I will put my trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I will wait patiently for his word. The Lord will not hold back his mercy for we know that he loves us and cares for each and every one of us.

A hymn to help us remember that God is with us today, yesterday and tomorrow, written by Issac Watts in the 1700's and played by Martin Prue. Let us sing together "*Our God our help in ages past*".

#### Hymn (BPW 389) **Our God our Help in Ages Past**

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne  
Your saints have lived secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting you are God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in your sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be now our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Looking back over the past week, what do you feel grateful for? It might be a small thing: a picture given to you by a child; a plant flowering in the garden. It might be a big thing: a relationship discovered or restored; a career opportunity coming your way. It might be that you're in touch with the meaning of regular blessings: air to breathe or food on the table. It might be something specifically spiritual: the gift of Jesus as your Saviour; the fellowship of the worldwide church. Pause now, and give thanks to God...

Lord, your gifts to me are too many to count and too valuable to price. I give you thanks for them all. Open the eyes of my heart so that in all good things, whether in birdsong or in the night sky, whether in the kindness of a stranger or the power of beautiful music, I will see signs of your overflowing love and boundless grace. Most of all, I thank you for Jesus, who is the way for me to enter into your mercy, grace and love. Amen.

Written by Brian Doerksen the song, "*Faithful One, so unchanging*" reminds us that although the world may change around us, God is the constant in the equation of life.

Song (WT 80) **Faithful One**

Faithful one, so unchanging,  
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on you.  
I call out to you again and again,  
I call out to you again and again.

You are my rock in times of trouble;  
You lift me up when I fall down;  
All through the storm your love is the anchor;  
My hope is in you alone.

REPEAT whole song

Ending:

My hope is in you,  
My hope is in you,  
My hope is in you alone.

Offertory Prayer

Now we give thanks for the gift of giving. How marvellous to be able to give a little bit like the way you give! Lord, may our donations to church and charity be effective ways of sharing your freely-given love. Amen.

The song, "*For the Joys and for the Sorrows*", which was written by Graham Kendrick, reflects on Psalms 23, 107, and Matthew 28: verse 20, and reminds us that we always have Jesus with us.

Song (WT 96) **For the Joys and for the Sorrows** (For this I have Jesus)

For the joys and for the sorrows  
The best and worst of times,  
For this moment, for tomorrow,  
For all that lies behind;

Fears that crowd around me,  
For the failure of my plans,  
For the dreams of all I hope to be,  
The truth of what I am:

*Chorus x 2*

*For this I have Jesus,  
For this I have Jesus,  
For this I have Jesus, I have Jesus.*

For the tears that flow in secret,  
In the broken times,  
For the moments of elation,  
Or the troubled mind;  
For all the disappointments,  
Or the sting of old regrets,  
All my prayers and longings  
That seem unanswered yet:

*Chorus x2*

For the weakness of my body,  
The burdens of each day,  
For the nights of doubt and worry,  
When sleep has fled away;  
Needing reassurance,  
And the will to start again,  
A steely-eyed endurance,  
The strength to fight and win:

*Chorus x2*

Good morning, our message this week is based around Psalm 40, and I hope that it blesses you in the same way as it has blessed me.

## Bible Reading

### **Psalm 40**

*For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.*

- <sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one  
who trusts in the LORD,  
who does not look to the proud,  
to those who turn aside to false gods.
- <sup>5</sup> 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.
- <sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire –  
but my ears you have opened; –  
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
- <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Here I am, I have come –  
it is written about me in the scroll.
- <sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, my God;  
your law is within my heart.'

<sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;  
I do not seal my lips, LORD,  
as you know.

<sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.  
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness  
from the great assembly.

<sup>11</sup> Do not withhold your mercy from me, LORD;  
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

<sup>12</sup> For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.

<sup>13</sup> Be pleased to save me, LORD;  
come quickly, LORD, to help me.

<sup>14</sup> May all who want to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.

<sup>15</sup> May those who say to me, 'Aha! Aha!'  
be appalled at their own shame.

<sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say,  
'The LORD is great!'

<sup>17</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
you are my God, do not delay.

## Sermon

### ***Wait Patiently for the Lord***

I don't know if most of you were here last time I visited, but I was talking about prayer, and I was telling you how I enjoy in my prayer time to use the psalms, as well as my own prayers.

I want to talk to you a bit about the two main sections that this psalm has: v1-10 and then v11-17.

In this very first section of this psalm, we see a witness of the psalmist of his personal experience and the blessing that is found in waiting on the Lord.

It's the story of what God has done in his life, it's personal, it shows us how God simply cares about the individual. Imagine that, out of all the billions of people on the face of the Earth, out of all the people that have existed throughout time, He cares about you; He wants a personal relationship with you.

He waits patiently on the Lord, the same, like all of us do, right? We don't want God to act straight away... Or do we? I think there is an important lesson here as well, the lesson that waiting patiently on the Lord reveals great rewards.

His reward and testimony was that he was saved by the Grace of God from the slimy pit, from the mud and mire, from his present crisis that resembles muddy clay, and put his feet on solid rock, on a firm foundation, the same way that we should trust God now in our own lives to do that.

He goes on in saying in verses 4-5 about how blessed is the one that puts his trust in the Lord, and not in people that turn around to worship false gods.

I wonder if you've ever found yourself trusting people to give you what only God can give you. I wonder how many times maybe you have been disappointed by people and expected them to provide you with the blessings that God wanted to give you, if only you would have put your trust in Him fully.

Has anyone turned their backs on you when you needed them the most? I know I've been let down by people my whole life, and I know that in this journey of following Christ through ministry, I will be disappointed by people at times, but you need to know this, even more, you need to constantly have this assurance that there is someone there for you, there is One Friend that sticks closer than a brother, and that is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Why does He do that? Why does He stick closer than a brother? Because He knows how it feels to be hurt by people, to be broken by people, to be betrayed by people. This is not a distant God that we serve that stays at a distance somewhere far away, and us trying so desperately to reach Him. He's been through the stuff we're going through, because of His love for us. He became human, and He is waiting for you, with His arms wide open, to come to Him, if you don't know Him, and for you to come back to Him, if you knew Him and have fallen astray...

This psalm, the same as many other psalms of David, contains his praise for God's past deliverance in response to his earlier petition in prayer, but also in him waiting patiently on the Lord to move. And in the second part we will see, David uses that past deliverance experience to start crying out to the Lord with concern to his current need for the Lord's help.

I don't know if I mentioned this before, but I start prayer like this. I hope everyone here today does the same like David in this psalm as well, and that is that we don't just go to God asking for things, we need to focus on thanking Him first, acknowledging Him and all that He's done for us in the past, the things that He brought us out of, and then, if we have any petitions, we ask.

What's a good thing to meditate upon, and I've heard many people talk about this, is thinking of the prayers you've prayed, and the way God answered. You can write them down. I've heard of a guy who used to write every prayer request in his journal, and then, as time would go by, sometimes even years later, God would answer his prayers and then he would cross them off.



It doesn't mean I'm going to pray now for the latest Lamborghini and God will give it to me, I'm talking about answer to prayers from the people of God, according to His Will, connected to Christ's Kingdom. It could be physical healing, it could be spiritual healing, it could be a loved one coming to Christ, but it's good to remember, not in a way of living in the past, but remembering as a form of gratitude, what we call an attitude of gratitude towards the goodness of Christ.

In verses 6,7 and 8 we need to understand that David doesn't go ahead cancelling the commandments that the Lord has given to His people, but he is showing us how having your heart committed to God, will bring with it obedience as well.

We need to understand that outer traditional acts remain just what they are, traditions, if we don't mean it from our heart. It's the same like any religious tradition that you would see and I used to see in the Orthodox church as I was growing up, just people doing tradition-based actions that become mundane, and all you find yourself doing in the end is participating in this traditional action, not really meaning it from the depths of your heart.

That's what David was talking about here. You have to mean it, not just do it. It's the same with worship, Communion, tithing, we need to understand that our offering becomes pleasing to God when it comes from our hearts.

This is what David understood, and I do hope we understand as well, that God is pleased with us when we are understanding the reason why sacrifices are done, why offering is given, etc. and the attitude of our hearts towards this.

David understood that people have fallen into the habit of being part of this meaningless religious system, based just on traditional ceremonies, without having their hearts in the right place.

God created this whole sacrificial system so that people would repent of their sin and see the true meaning of their sins being forgiven through sacrifice, but they seemed to have lost the sight of that through time.

In verses 7-10, we see how it's all about witnessing. He proclaims the things the Lord has done for him, and the help He has provided.

When was the last time maybe that you have witnessed to anyone about how Jesus took you out of the slimy pit, how He saved your life from eternal damnation?

There's always some random thing that you find around that you would go and tell people that you found, like I always tell people that I now need an electric tool from Argos and how it provides for all my electrical gadgets and things and tools that I need.

But anything that you could think about, whether it's sales, something on offer, a new TV show that you've seen, we like to tell people about it; and all that is incomparable to what Christ has done for you and me. How can you just not witness to people about how He saved you? Have you lost joy maybe? David did not seal his lips.

In the second part of the psalm, starting with verse 11, David changes the tone a bit, as we see, and it finishes with hope. That's why we kind of had that reminder in the beginning of the chapter where it says that the Lord saved him before. Now he admits that his sin has overtaken him, his own actions have caught up with him, but he is optimistic in the promise of the Lord, that in the same manner that He did before, He will do it again, He will save him again.

Christ loves you, and even when you do the stupidest things that you could ever imagine, He is there, ready to forgive you. Christ's Grace and Mercy is greater than any sin that we could ever commit.

So, when you commit sin, God still listens to you afterwards. I know it feels horrible, I know you'll say to yourself maybe that you've messed up so bad that Christ isn't listening to you anymore, but that is not true.

An honest heart is all that Christ wants. He wants you and me to accept when we fall and come to Him for forgiveness.

1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and

purify us from all unrighteousness”.

God in his mercy forgives our sin and so we ask him to cleanse us through and through in the song, “*Purify my Heart*”.

Song (WT 354) **Purify my Heart**

Verse 1

Purify my heart;  
Let me be as gold  
And precious silver.  
Purify my heart;  
Let me be as gold  
Pure gold.

*Chorus*

*Refiner's fire,  
My heart's one desire,  
Is to be holy,  
Set apart for You, Lord.  
I choose to be holy,  
Set apart for You, my Master,  
Ready to do Your will.*

Verse 2

Purify my heart;  
Cleanse me from within  
And make me holy.  
Purify my heart;  
Cleanse me from my sin,  
Deep within.

*Chorus x 2*

*Ending: Ready to do Your will.*

Our intercessory prayers are brought to us by Anne Thompson.

### Prayers of Intercession

Father God, we bring our prayers to you now, knowing that you will hear us.

Tomorrow is International World Refugee Day. We pray for all people who have had to flee their homes and their country, and especially at this time for those displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Lord, we ask you to help the world leaders to bring this war to an end as it is causing global problems of the supply of food and fuel, as well as the dreadful tragedy of death and injury, and the destruction of people's homes and lives.

This week will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the war in the Falklands, and there have been television programmes detailing the experiences of the people who fought over there. Some of them have not spoken of their experiences since then. Pray for peace of mind for them and their families after all this time.

We pray for our leaders in this country, that there may be an end to all the unrest and accusations of bad leadership and rule breaking. Help them to get back to dealing with the issues important to the people of this country, with honesty and integrity.

Today is Father's Day and we ask you to be with all families. Help fathers to be strong to help support their families and protect their children and give them happy times. We pray, Lord, for those families who still have fathers and those who are without them now, for whatever reason.

We pray for our city as it comes to the end of our time as City of Culture, and restructuring work is carried out in the City Centre, and we pray for the leaders and councillors who deal with the issues that arise and day to day management.

We pray for our church and ask you to help us discern how best we can help people in these difficult times with rising fuel and food costs. We are glad to be able to provide

rooms for our community groups to use at reasonable cost and we hope to be able to continue to do this in the future, whether in this building or a replacement one.

We pray for people struggling with debt and their finances, those stressed because of work or with too many demands on their time, students struggling to finish their theses and school students taking exams, or awaiting results on which their futures may depend.

Our Father, please be with those people who are ill, awaiting tests or having treatment and those who have been bereaved, who are lonely or anxious. In the following silence we pray for those we may know personally who need our prayers and your comfort Lord. (Silence).

We ask all these things in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who came to save us all. Amen.

Thank you for those prayers, Anne.

Our final song writer, Martin Smith, takes us on a long journey, "Over the Mountains and the Sea" and keeps us singing about Jesus' love forever.

Song (WT 343) **Over the Mountains and the Sea**

Over the mountains and the sea,  
Your river runs with love for me,  
and I will open up my heart  
and let the healer set me free.  
I'm happy to be in the truth,  
and I will daily lift my hands:  
for I will always sing of when  
Your love came down. [Yeah!]

I could sing of Your love forever,  
I could sing of Your love forever,  
I could sing of Your love forever,  
I could sing of Your love forever.

Oh, I feel like dancing –  
it's foolishness I know;  
but, when the world has seen the light,  
they will dance with joy,  
like we're dancing now.

And now the Grace.

### The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
And the love of God;  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
Be with us all, evermore.  
Amen

### Sung Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you  
Wherever he may send you;  
May he guide you through the wilderness;  
Protect you through the storm;  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
At the wonders he has shown you;  
May he bring you home rejoicing  
Once again into our doors.