

## Skene Parish Church - Service Sheet – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September

We return this week for a more in-depth look at Psalm 71. It is a psalm which covers every age of life – from our very conception until our old age and grey hair.

It is also a psalm that encourages us to tell our story regardless of what age we are. To tell of the marvellous deeds that God has done in our lives.



What is your story/your song? And how do we as a church ensure that it is passed on to the next generation and the next generation and the next generation?

### Opening Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever ... Amen.*

### Call to Worship – Psalm 71

In you, LORD, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.



During this month we are collecting food donations for Aberdeenshire South Foodbank. See our newsletter for how you can give and what is most needed.

The psalms readily remind us that those who put their trust in the Lord and who worship Him, will never be put to shame. Why not take time now to listen to the hymn listed for today or take out your hymnbook and read/sing the words? The music is available on our church website.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
220 The day thou gavest Lord has ended	727 In the bulb there is a flower	Tell me the stories of Jesus	737 Will your anchor hold	166 Lord of all hopefulness

You may want to listen to *The Liturgy of the Hours* by Stuart Townend

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kKsjgcTIAE>

Or *O Lord, my rock and my redeemer* by Sovereign Grace Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpELMk4-3n8>

### God's Word – Psalm 71

Be my rock of refuge,  
to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.

<sup>4</sup> Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Psalm 69:1-18	Psalm 69:19-36	Psalm 70	Psalm 71	Psalm 72

## Reflection – Psalm 71



“Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds. <sup>18</sup> Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.”

This psalm is a wonderful testament to a faith that is vibrant and life-long. The psalmist rejoices in the truth that God has been with him from his earliest of days. As he looks back over this life, he acknowledges with gratitude that his faith gave him confidence in his youth and that he learned to rely on the Lord. Most of us came to faith when we were children and so the psalmist’s story may well match our own.

He is older now, and his strength is failing. He asks the Lord not to forsake him but to continue to be with him all his days. As with God’s faithfulness to draw near, so with the psalmist’s faithfulness in praising God. He does not want to be cut off from life before he has had a chance to make sure the next generation knows exactly who God is. But even as he faces his own mortality, he still believes that God will restore him to life again. What a powerful example to us all – not only in how he depends on God but how he spends his life talking about all that God has done for him. As you reflect on his words this week, what could you learn from Psalm 71?

**Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,  
Things I would ask him to tell me if he  
were here.  
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me**

**Oh, let me hear how the children stood  
round his knee.  
I shall imagine his blessings resting on me;  
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,  
All in the love-light of Jesus’ face.**

**Words: W. H. Parker, 1845–1929**

**Music: Frederic A. Challinor, 1866–1952**

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### Prayer

*Father God we pray for the younger generations in our community and in our nation. We pray for children and young people at school – learning in a new way. We give thanks for their energy and enthusiasm. They bring such joy to us and we delight in them, as you delight in all your children. We pray for their safety and their wellbeing. Help us to nurture them and give us courage to share our faith with them. Help us to tell them stories of Jesus and his love for them.*

*Father God we pray for the middle generations in our community and in our nation. We pray for parents and workers, for carers and leaders. We remember those who have lost their employment and are in financial distress. We pray for those struggling to manage the demands of family and work. Help us to encourage them to depend upon you and not lose sight of the faith that gave them confidence in their youth.*

*Father God we pray for the older generations in our community and in our nation. We pray for those who feel forsaken or who are suffering from loneliness. Draw near to them and soothe their sorrows. We pray for those who are ill and those who are grieving. Lord God, in your mercy, comfort them and surround them with your everlasting and loving arms. Help us to protect them and give them courage to share their faith more readily. Help them to tell us stories of Jesus and how much he means to them. May we learn from them and be strengthened by their faith.*

*In his name we pray, Amen.*

**Benediction (Psalm 72)**

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvellous deeds.  
<sup>19</sup> Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen and Amen.

## **Reopening for worship**

### **When and where are the services?**

Wednesday afternoon at 3pm each week. They will be at Trinity Church, Westhill. The service itself will be no longer than 30 minutes.

### **How do I know whether I should come at all?**

The Church of Scotland has developed a Risk Assessment tool which you can use to decide if it is appropriate for you to come to the service. If you try the service and choose not to return until things are different, we understand completely. It is really important that you are comfortable as well as safe.

### **Why do we need a booking system?**

We have a limited number of seats available for our services, because of the need to physically distance ourselves from one another. Our configuration allows a maximum of 30 people, but this includes space for couples as well as individuals. In addition to this, there will be 3 stewards, the organist, the person leading the service and someone on the sound desk.

### **How do I book a spot?**

To book a spot at a service you will need to telephone **Fiona Robertson, our church secretary, on 01224 742512**. She will be managing the seating plan. **You should make sure you are on the list by 12noon the day before the service.** You must book a spot for each service you attend.

We would like to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to attend our services. Therefore, priority may be given to those who are booking for the first time each week. However, please don't let that stop you calling.

### **Can I get transport to the service?**

At the present it is not possible for the church to arrange transport for you.

### **What do I need to know before coming?**

We will do everything we can to make the service as safe as possible. We undertook a pilot to check our processes and to gather feedback.

Please remember that if you have Covid-19 or are experiencing any symptoms relating to Covid-19, you should not be coming to the building.

You will enter the building by the front door. Please be careful if you are walking around the building from the back carpark.

Please only arrive at the building 5-10 minutes before the service start time.

There are markings on the carpark to enable a physically distanced queue as you enter the building.

You will be greeted by a steward who will check off your name on our register. The register enables us to participate in the NHS Test & Protect system, which is mandatory. If you would like information on our privacy policy, please ask. Your details will be kept for 21 days in relation to the service.

It is also mandatory for everyone to wear a mask in a place of worship. This is unless you have an exemption. There will be spare masks available, if you need one.

The steward will ask you to sanitise your hands on entry to the sanctuary.

A beadle will meet you and ask you to sit in a specific seat. This enables the room to be seated in an orderly and safe manner.

### **What will the service be like?**

It will be different, and yet there will be many familiar aspects to it.

There will be no hymn books, bibles, or service sheets.

There will be music, including the organ played live.

We are not able to sing together. However, at our pilot service, some commented that being able to listen to the music and read the words on the screen, allowed for a deeper connection to the words.

If we say the Lord's prayer together, we need to do that quietly.

There will be a short reflection on a psalm, as well as our prayers.

The person leading the service will be behind a screen on the communion table.

Our aim will be to make you feel as safe and comfortable as possible, and to spend time worshipping God.

### **What happens afterwards?**

You will be asked to remain seated until it is indicated that you can leave.

You will leave by the emergency exit.

You will be asked to sanitise your hands on the way out of the building.

We ask that you do not congregate with others in the carpark prior to or after the service.

### **What if I need to use the toilet?**

The accessible toilet in the foyer is available for use. We ask that you ensure you physically distance with others on route to and back from the toilet. The Ladies and Gents toilets, together with the kitchen, are currently out of bounds.

### **Can I bring my FWO envelopes?**

It will be possible to deposit your FWO envelopes in a container as you enter the building. The money will be handled according to the Church of Scotland guidance.

### **What if I can't come after booking a spot?**

Please let us know as we will need to update our register for NHS Test & Protect and we may be able to offer your spot to someone else.

### **Are there other ways of accessing the service?**

A short service of worship is available on the telephone by calling 01224 087226. We are also hoping to offer DVDs of our Sunday service to those who would like them.