

**Skene Parish Church – Service Sheet**  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



World Day of Prayer takes place at Trinity Church at 2pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This will follow the Lenten Lunch at 12.30pm led by our friends in the Roman Catholic congregation.

**Dates for the diary**

Westhill Prays – Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm.

Afternoon Tea Service – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.

Why not come along and have a bowl of soup at Warm Wednesdays first and then join in the service?

Difference Course continues - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm online

Holy Communion at Trinity Church – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30am

**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 from Proverbs 3:5-6**

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>
380 There is a green hill	392 When I survey	14 The Lord's my shepherd	399 My song is love unknown	403 Were you there
He calls me friend by CityAlight - <a href="https://youtu.be/2PpiezP6xRM?si=obGsZpmbblqD2m0E">https://youtu.be/2PpiezP6xRM?si=obGsZpmbblqD2m0E</a> The Lord is by my side by CityAlight - <a href="https://youtu.be/5S_4TJJOvAk">https://youtu.be/5S_4TJJOvAk</a>				

**God's Word**

Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>
Psalm 22:1-15	Psalm 22:16-31	Psalm 23	Psalm 24	Psalm 25

**Reflection by Rev Stella...**

**<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**  
*Why are you so far from saving me,  
 so far from my cries of anguish?...*

*<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
 future generations will be told about the Lord.*

*<sup>31</sup>They will proclaim his righteousness,  
 declaring to a people yet unborn:  
**He has done it!***

The beginning and ending of Psalm 22. Do you notice anything about these words?

For the beginning, Jesus is recorded in Matthew's gospel as uttering these words in Aramaic when he is hanging on the cross. It's a harrowing moment as we realise that Jesus is experiencing a separation from God which is completely alien to him. He draws on the psalms to try and articulate what he is going through. And Psalm 22 fits the bit perfectly.

The first half of the psalm makes for uncomfortable reading. The servant of the Lord – the one sent to fulfil his purposes – experiences tremendous suffering at the hands of others. He is mocked and insulted. But tries to reconcile this with his calling. He has put his trust in God from his birth, and yet, now feels abandoned by that same God. Although it doesn't stop him crying out for God's help. Somehow, the midst of affliction, he holds on to what he knows about the character and love of God.

Verses 17 and 18 are vivid in their depiction of the psalmist's anguish and are a remarkable foretelling of what happens to Jesus in the crucifixion.

But there is a then a shift in the psalm – as often is the case. The psalmist not only asks for help from God, he begins to believe that that help will be forthcoming. He grows in faith and energy and speaks of how he will praise God before other people.

*For he has not despised or scorned  
the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him  
but has listened to his cry for help.*



It was true of the psalmist, and it was also true of Jesus. God may have laid Jesus in the dust of death but He also raised him to new life. And as a consequence, all the world will, one day, bow before Jesus, for God vindicated him.

I love how Jesus also seems to quote the end of this psalm. There is remarkable similarity between his words of 'It is finished' found in John 19:30 and the psalm's ending – 'He has done it'. Both express the completion of a task. And we know, that in Jesus' death and resurrection, God accomplished his salvation plan for the world he created.

Perhaps, like Jesus, you need to find a psalm that reflects what you are going through at the moment. Take the words of the psalm and make them your own – whether it is one of praise or lament.

May reading this psalm help us as we journey through Lent and prepare to celebrate Holy Week and Easter.

### **Prayer from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers**

*God, you promise never to forsake us,  
but to bring us to life,  
nurture us with your presence,  
and sustain us even in the hour of our death.  
Meet us in our deepest doubts  
when we feel abandoned,  
drowning in our fear of your absence.  
Visit us in the tension between our yearning and our anger,  
that we may know your mercy and grace in our time of need.  
Amen.*

### **Benediction**

May the strength of God sustain us; may the power of God preserve us; may the hands of God protect us; may the way of God direct us; may the love of God go with us this day and forever. Amen.

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