

18 July 2021

Worship Sheet for Sunday 18 July David's house

Now settled in Jerusalem, David considers building a permanent temple for God to match his own palace. Nathan the prophet initially supports the idea but on reflection and prayer believes that God intends Solomon to take that on later and hints too of the house of David being through his lineage. Remember Joseph went to Bethlehem because he was of the house of David. We explore plans – ours and God's.

Call: We value our church buildings but you, Lord, are everywhere, not just here, you are forever, and not just for this time, you are not bound by bricks and mortar, or limited in scope and availability by our traditions. We come into worship, not because it is the only time or only place, or only way for us to do so, but because, here and now, we make time, we make space, to greet you everlasting God, knowing that as we go, you go with us too. We worship you now, and always!

Pray Lord, we are grateful that down through the years you have remained faithful to your people as they have worshipped in grand cathedrals, ornate churches, humble parish churches, in pilgrim wanderings, on the Scottish hillsides and especially this last year by television, radio, telephone and online. For you are not confined to buildings – you meet with your people, with us – even when we fall short, when our plans and yours diverge, when we fail to pick up on your call to mission. Forgive us, accept us in your dear Son, and empower us by your Spirit to hear and answer your call to worship and reach out in mission to a world that needs your gospel, to a world you love. We further pray together saying: Our Father...

Read 2 Samuel 7: 1-14a. David proposes building a house for the Lord.

Thought David is well settled in his capital Jerusalem and has built himself a palace. He approaches Nathan the prophet with the suggestion that they build a temple to house the ark of the Covenant permanently, rather than in its tent like structure. How far this was genuinely a concern for God's glory and how far it was to further enhance David's own prestige and point to his success in settling his people safely, ending their wanderings and giving them security from their foes is a moot point. After initially supporting the idea, Nathan reflects and prays and concludes that God hasn't David in mind for the temple building, but rather, Solomon his son. A reminder to us that we would do well to pray and reflect BEFORE committing to projects; that sometimes we can have good ideas that God wants to be delivered by others and that we need to ensure that our motives are truly honourable and God glorifying rather than self indulgent. There was also the deeper answer to the question – for arguably, the real house of the Lord wasn't the temple at all but the line of people who were to be David's descendants right down to Joseph who went to Bethlehem because he was of the house of David. Jesus could be said to be the true dwelling place of God. In any event, we need to remember that God is not confined to church buildings, he is ready to dwell in the hearts of believers and work in us wherever we are to tell out and live out the good news. Plans are fine and we need to make them, even if along the way they have to be amended and altered, either because circumstances change or because we become more aware of God's guidance. Sometimes we have to make a move before it becomes clearer as to where that move is going to take us. But remember, we should always be open to pray and reflect upon what God wants.

Praise CH4 237 Look forward in faith.

Pray God of love, thank you for the vast universe you have created for us to enjoy. Thank you for the mixture of beauty and fragility that makes up the world we know. You are present in all of it and experience the joy and pain that ebbs and flows throughout the world. Lord, we are grateful for all that brings us joy and laughter, for friends and family, for homes and financial security, for health care and education, for peace and stable government. Lord, we are all too well aware that many other people are not so fortunate, and we bring our prayers for them before you today. For those people who have no roof over their heads, who do not have a table, let alone food to put on it, Lord, have mercy. For those people whose lives are affected by walls that keep them out, and are barriers to their daily living, Lord, have mercy. For those people whose doorways do not protect them from intruders looking to steal from them or harm them, Lord, have mercy. For those people who look out of their windows but refuse to see the pain and suffering right before their eyes, Lord, have mercy. Lord, you live everywhere and in everyone, do not let us forget to seek you in our neighbour, to follow in the way of Jesus, by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, taking care of the poor, the bereaved and the sick, making sure that all people have a place to live where they feel safe and a place where they belong. Make your home in our hearts and help us to share your love with everyone. In our prayer walk this week we pray for those who live or work in the Mall. SILENCE Lord hear our prayers spoken and unspoken and answer them for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen Blessing

May the Lord bless you. Amen.

Notices

The Scottish Government has announced that Angus, in common with the rest of Scotland, is to be in Level 0 from 19 July.

The main difference for us is that the physical distancing requirement indoors will be reduced from 2m to 1m. Before we can implement this, we are required to update our risk assessment, change all the signage and establish what other measures might be needed to ensure the safety of potentially greater numbers, as well as submitting our plans to Presbytery. Nothing changes for this Sunday and it might take a week or two but it is another step forward.

There will still be plenty room in the church for folk to sit further than 1m from others should they feel more comfortable doing so.

More information to follow.

To assist those unable to access material via the internet we have established a phone line where people can phone in to hear the mini service or sermon.

01674 902624.

To hear the mini service people just need to dial in and wait. To hear the sermon, after dialling you need to press 1 then #. In either case there is a few seconds delay while the message loads so tell folk not to hang up! If folk press 1 for the sermon before the intro finishes the system doesn't pick up on it and it defaults to the mini service. The message now says wait until after the tone before pressing 1 but give it a few seconds after that and do press # after pressing 1.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website www.oldandstandrews.com and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

With the guidance easing there is plenty of room now to come to Church but please do still phone so that taking details for government requirements doesn't cause a delay on entry. We are now allowed to sing (subject to Angus being in level 1 or 0) though face coverings are still required.

If you are thinking of coming please phone Thelma Robb 672263 or Willie Sinclair during the week prior to a particular Sunday on 675671 so that we have contact details for trace and protect.

Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember that the congregation is united in love wherever we are and however we are worshipping.

Stay safe! May the Lord bless you!

Ian

Rev Dr Ian A McLean