

# 20 June 2021

## Worship Sheet for Sunday 20 June Taking the initiative

David is affronted that no one is willing to accept the challenge to fight the Philistine champion Goliath. He offers his services. Initially, he is rejected but Saul sees that there is more to David than meets the eye. He doesn't fit the profile of a champion but his speed, ingenuity and courage win the day. How do we take the initiative without jumping the gun, without seeking to make a name for ourselves?

Call: David and Goliath - an unfair contest! An unfair fight. Yet, with God strange things happen. Who God chooses is up to God. And when God makes a choice, that person has what God needs for the outcome God intends. As God's chosen people let us worship God and remain alert and ready for what God needs from us!

Pray Lord, thank you that you do work out your purposes for good with those who love you. Not that we always get things right, we don't. But you use our gifts and experience, our attitudes and qualities which you have given – and you combine them all with your grace and work things out in sometimes surprising ways, far beyond our thinking. Give us the faith to trust you – to step up to the mark and respond to your calling – in small things as well as in big, in unseen ways as well as when viewed by others. Help us to believe that you are working things out for good in Jesus and through his Spirit – and to accept that we really do have a share in it all. Help us to seek out your plans, to draw upon your strength and to lean on those we love and trust for mutual encouragement in your great plan. Forgive us our failings, including our reluctance to step out with you and assure us of your continuing love and tender support. We pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together saying: Our Father...

Read 1 Samuel 17: 32-49 David and Goliath.

Thought Jumping the gun, pushing yourself to the fore doesn't go down well and yet sometimes we would all be the losers if people hadn't taken the initiative. Think of some of the famous inventors or discoverers of science and medicine – among them several Scots! How long might the world have waited had they not taken the initiative? It is sometimes a fine line. We hate to get things wrong, especially if our failings are public – yet to quote another saying “You have to break eggs to make an omelette.” David upset his brothers and many of their comrades in arms when he called them out for not going up against the Philistine champion Goliath and worse, when he had the temerity to put himself forward. On the face of it he was desperately ill equipped – but he was thinking outside the box, while not a mighty warrior he had speed, ingenuity and courage on his side and he wasn't a total novice at defending himself – he'd had to protect the flock from wild animals. David was going to make some very serious mistakes in his life as we will see, however, he was used at times to make some key interventions which improved his people's fortunes and brought them closer to God. We won't always get things right but we too are called to take the initiative in small ways as well as large that through our words, kindness and love might impact upon others and help them to live more closely in God's way. Indirectly, we is to say how they in turn might influence things for good and for God in ways we'll never understand or even know about. Let's not be too hard on others who take the initiative nor too slow ourselves to respond to God's call – it might not come as you expect but God has a way of supporting us in his work.

Praise CH4 255 Father, hear the prayer we offer v1,2 &4.

Pray Lord, our world is in need of change, change for the better, change to be more in line with you plans and purposes – where love and kindness replace greed, violence and selfishness. Too often we leave it to others, we don't take responsibility. Grant us grace to rise to the challenges – to take on our share, to do what we can do, and to encourage others with influence to do what we can't do. In a world where so many lack hope, inspire us with the promise that you will make all things new, that the dry bones will live, that Jesus really will be with us always and is working out your purposes for good. Sustain all who are struggling with the virus and its consequences – watch over those caring for the sick, those feeling the strain, dealing with outbreaks and also with other illnesses that have backlogs. Help us as a nation to be generous towards countries less fortunate and to act in a way that we would wish to be treated. Locally, help us to be wise in opening up and kindly towards our neighbours. In our prayer walk we pray for those who live or work in Queen Street and King Street. 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

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](http://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) 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 AN IDEA OF NUMBERS AND IF YOU ARE COMING AS A BUBBLE, HOW MANY THERE WILL BE IN THE FAMILY GROUP.**

**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*