

Sunday 25 February 2024

2 Samuel 18:1–20:26Leading
Speaking**William Taylor
Phil Hudson**

Please turn all phones and other communicating devices completely off (or on flight mode). Devices on silent can still interfere with the PA system and sermon recordings.

- 1 Creator God,
who shaped the earth and heavens,**
your glory shines in all that you have made.
You spoke the Word,
who broke into the darkness;
all earth replies: “majestic is your name!”
And who am I, though made below the angels,
that you, my King, are mindful of my ways?
As moon and stars sing out their joyful chorus
I lift my voice to join with them in praise.
- 2 Redeeming God, creation’s song fell silent**
as on the cross, the Light was pierced with dark.
The Word of life
to death now hangs surrendered;
the one who spoke out stars
now breathes his last.
And who am I, the lowliest of sinners,
that you would pay the price my sin deserves?
My Maker scarred
for those who marred his likeness,
and from his wounds flows mercy unreserved.
- 3 O living God! You broke the tomb in glory;**
death could not hold
the one who authored life!
His radiant light
has shattered through our darkness,
and in our hearts, his risen life now shines.
And who are we,
that you would call us children,
and raise us up from death to life with you,
where we will sing
the New Creation anthem:
“O praise the one
who’s making all things new!”.

And so we wait in eager expectation,
and join the song as all creation groans:
“Lord, haste the Day decay is slain by glory,
the Day you call
your sons and daughters home.”

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Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and in the good we have not done,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault

We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

‡©Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Children and young people leave for their groups

Leader And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

All **“Behold, the dwelling place of God
is with man.
He will dwell with them,
and they will be his people,
and God himself will be with them
as their God.**

Leader He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,
and death shall be no more,
**neither shall there be mourning,
nor crying, nor pain any more,
for the former things have passed away.”**

Leader And he who was seated on the throne said,
All **“Behold, I am making all things new.”**

Revelation 21:3–5a ESVUK

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down:
fix in us your humble dwelling,
all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion,
boundless love that makes us whole;
visit us with your salvation,
enter every trembling soul.

2 Breathe on us your loving Spirit;
every troubled heart be blessed:
let us all in you inherit,
let us find your promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all your grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more your temple leave.
You we would be always blessing,
serve you as your hosts above,
pray, and praise you without ceasing,
glory in your perfect love.

4 Finish then your new creation:
pure and sinless let us be;
let us see your great salvation,
perfect in eternity:
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
there to cast our crowns before you,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Prayers

Reading 2 Samuel 18:1–23

1 There is a higher throne

than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.

Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace;
salvation comes.

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies;
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are to God our King
who reigns on high
forever more.*

2 And there we'll find our home;
our life before the throne.
We'll honour him in perfect song
where we belong.

He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
we'll reign with him.

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies;
their praises rise.*

*All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are to God our King
who reigns on high
forever more.*

Keith and Kristyn Getty

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Reading 2 Samuel 18:24–19:8

Sermon Phil Hudson

1 In Resurrection bodies

like Jesus' very own,
we'll rise to meet our Saviour
in joy around his throne:
we'll marvel at the mercy
that bids poor sinners come,
be welcomed at his table,
and share his heavenly home!

2 O, Joy of resurrection,
all sin and sorrow past,
to see the face of Jesus,
to be like him at last!
Made perfect in his image,
complete in Christ the Son,
in resurrection glory
we'll share the life he won.

3 O, resurrection body,
set free from pain and death,
sin's curse forever vanquished
by Christ's victorious breath!
Lord teach us in our trials
your hidden ways to trace,
to walk by faith discerning
your mysteries of grace!

4 With holy joy, Lord Jesus,
we sing the life you give,
the hope you hold before us—
the strength by which we live!
Lead on in sovereign mercy
through all life's troubled ways,
till resurrection bodies
bring resurrection praise!

Edith Margaret Clarkson (1915–2008)

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Please help us by replacing Bibles on chairs and disposing of any coffee cups. Thank you.

Please pray for: Jenny, Wendy, Sylvia, Graham, Shan, Chevonne, Ki-Ja, Anna, Ros.

Next Sunday: Phil Hudson will be speaking on 2 Samuel 21:1–24:25.

God's king still rising

Deliverance and distress

2 Samuel 18:1–20:26

Introduction: *"If I sin and I'm sorry, will everything be ok?"*

1. **"Yes!"—the LORD is merciful and delivers David**

2. **"And yet..."—delivered David is distressed for his son**

3. **"But yes!"—an imperfect picture of our perfect king and his kingdom**

Questions for discussion and reflection:

- In what ways does this story help us appreciate the mercy of God?
- How does this story help us understand the nuanced reality of sin, forgiveness, restoration and consequences?
- How does this story illuminate the wonderful hope for sinful people hope today and for the future found in the Lord Jesus Christ?

NOTICES



1. Join a small group: study the Bible regularly, in person, and get to know others in the church family. Central Focus and IGG.

International Growth Groups (IGG) are for students and workers who are in London from overseas just for a few years. This year studying Mark's Gospel. Continues Wednesdays, 7–9pm. To sign up, scan the QR code above or email: internationals@st-helens.org.uk

Central Focus is our Bible study evening for anyone at the 10.30am, this year studying Exodus. We meet on Tuesdays, 7.15–9.30pm, with earlier groups starting at 6.15pm. To sign up, scan the QR code above or email: centralfocus@st-helens.org.uk

2. Church family prayer: Monday 26 February, 6.30pm for 6.45pm at St Helen's. If you can't join in person, join on Zoom (please identify yourself when joining for an "in person" atmosphere). shb.org.uk/cfp meeting ID: 883 2931 4212, passcode: 818848. Food for £4.

3. WoW central meeting: mental health and the church—led by Pella Haire, Wednesday 28 February in St Helen's, 9.45–11.15am. Crèche provided at St Helen's. Bring your own lunch to join others after the talk. Any questions, email Janet: janetmtaylor62@gmail.com

4. Ermine Desmond: join with the family for the Thanksgiving service for Ermine Desmond at 3pm on Thursday 29 February at St Helen's. Refreshments will be served after the service. Help with stewarding and serving needed. To volunteer, email Hannah: h.tyler@st-helens.org.uk

5. Church family lunch: Sunday 3 March. Spend time building one another up, get to know one another and show hospitality to newcomers. Bring your own or sign up by 29 February for food: shb.org.uk/1030lunch To help, email: 1030am@st-helens.org.uk

6. Marriage Foundations: understanding marriage is important to the whole church family. All welcome, regardless of marital status: Monday evenings, 4, 11, 18 March. To register, email: marriage@st-helens.org.uk

7. Highlights from Handel's Messiah: 7pm, 22 March at St Michael's Cornhill—performed by professional singers with commentary by Henry ET. Bring colleagues, friends and family who appreciate classical music. Scan QR code or: bit.ly/SMCHM24 for tickets.



8. Long weekend away: 3–6 May, at Ashburnham. Jon Gemmell speaking on Leviticus and George Diwakar speaking on Titus. For details and to book: shb.org.uk/1030LWA24 Bookings close 18 April. Any questions, email: 1030am@st-helens.org.uk

9. Associate scheme: interested in training for Bible teaching ministry? Why not consider applying for the associate scheme. Applications are open, for more information, visit: shb.org.uk/associatescheme or scan the QR code.



10. Current vacancies: for details, visit shb.org.uk/jobs

11. The Bible Matters podcast: search *The Bible Matters Podcast* wherever you get your podcasts, or: biblematters.podbean.com

12. Electoral roll: We will be updating our electoral roll from 4 March–9 April, more details on 4 March.