

# St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

## Hearing God Speak through Prophecy

### 12 March 2023

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#### Opening Prayer:

Life is full of twists and turns that require big decisions, small decisions, adjusting to major life changes, and tackling day-to-day living. It seems like there are plenty of people out there who are ready to give us advice—in books, on television, at the office. But, is that the counsel we really need?

If we entertain too many different influences, thoughts and opinions, it can lead to confusion. In the midst of it all, we may feel uncertain that we're hearing the one voice we long to hear most—the voice of God.

God is a speaking God, and He speaks to His children every day. We have the wonderful opportunity to listen to Him and learn to hear His voice. We don't have to go through life blindly making decisions or relying on our own abilities. **We can hear Him clearly and consistently.**

We can hear God's voice every day and walk in the confidence of being led by the Spirit in your life. Here is a prayer to hear God's voice we can pray in faith:

Father, in the Name of Jesus, we thank You that You desire to speak to us every day—guiding us in spirit and in truth to obey Your Word and enjoy an abundant life. We thank You that You have called us Your friend and that we may come boldly to the throne of grace to find help whenever we have a need in my life.

Lord, Your Word says that when we draw near to You, You will draw near to us. So, we draw near to You today. We seek Your face, Your truth and Your word for my life. We want to know You more, hear You more and obey You more.

Your Word says Your sheep know Your voice and we will not follow the voice of a stranger. Help us to know Your voice and not be deceived by any other voice. Help us to guard our hearts from the influences of this world and the people around us. Help us not to be deceived by the devil and his lies, but to view all thoughts and decisions through the lens of righteousness.

As we seek to hear You today for instruction, correction and guidance, help us to confirm Your voice through Your Word. You said if we ask for wisdom, You will give it to us liberally. So, we are asking for wisdom in the Name of Jesus to hear You clearly and consistently today and every day. Help us to feel confident in knowing that we hear Your voice. We praise You and thank You for it, in Jesus' Name.

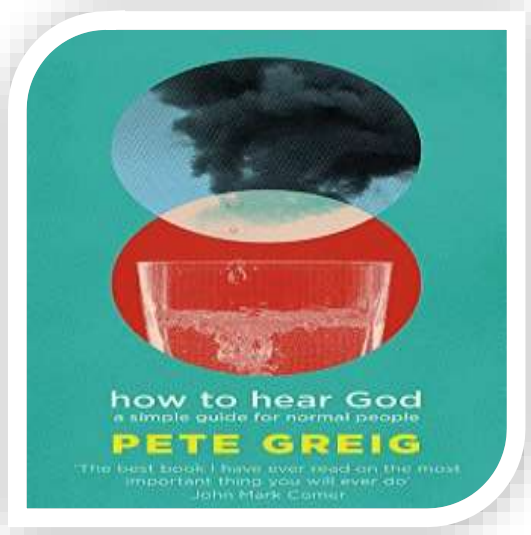
#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Children/ youth address

#### Bible Readings:

##### Acts 2:16-21

But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and



#### Come People of the Risen King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCYw3YeuZs0>

#### Approach

When we seek the Lord with all our heart, and listen for His voice, we will always have the advice we need to face any circumstance. We will enjoy a powerful relationship with Christ that will change our lives. May we listen, may we begin to listen and be confident in knowing that our God wants to speak to us and He wants us all to hear His voice. Yes, we can all hear from God! Speak, our master, speak.

#### Hymn: Master, speak! your servant's listening

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3pZN93FdHM>

1. Master, speak! Your servant's list'ning,  
longing for Your gracious word,  
longing for Your voice uplifting,  
Master, let it now be heard.  
I am listening eagerly,  
what will You now say to me?
2. Speak to me by name, O Master,  
let me know it is to me.  
Speak, that I may follow faster,  
with a step more firm and free.  
Where the Shepherd leads the flock  
in the shadow of the rock.
3. Master speak, though I'm unworthy,  
let me not depart unheard.  
Master, speak, for all my yearning  
will be answered by Your Word.  
You know all my deepest need;  
speak and make me blest indeed.
4. Master, speak! and make me ready,  
when Your voice is truly heard,  
with obedience glad and steady  
still to follow every word.  
I am listening eagerly:  
Master, speak! O speak to me!

your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ...

### 1Corinthians 14:1-3

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

### Luke 24:32

Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road ...?

### Reflection

**Offerings/ song: Speak, O Lord as we come to You**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJhmgCSx27Q>

### Prayers for offerings and intercession

Oh, Lord, you shepherd us. You follow us. You lead us through the fog of our times. We get caught up in fear and weighed down by seemingly eternal prejudices.

Open our minds to the alarming calamity of war, its evil nature that sets and divides and drains. Shake loose our compassion. Help us to understand the power of bearing witness in these times, with the wars in Ukraine, Israel/Palestine, South Sudan, and Syria devastating those nations and their peoples.

We know war in one place affects us all. We ask that leaders find a way for international disarmament treaties to be renewed. Help us to understand that Russia needs help to transition to climate-friendly energy industries as well as Europe, the U.S. and China. War is not green; it is grey, bloody, and cold.

We witness the natural disasters compounded by social and political upheaval. It becomes crisis within crisis within crisis. We mourn for the peoples of Syria and Turkey, as they deal with the terrible aftermath of the earthquakes there.

Wake us up to the wanton neglect of our role, our covenant, as neighbours and as stewards on this planet. We hear of the 2 million refugees from Ukraine now in Poland, of the 1 million taken in by Germany.

Help us to see our neighbour: the one parking their car next to us in the shopping mall; a classroom acquaintance we have never really given a "hello"; a tentative visitor at our church; the homeless man at the corner; a friend known to us grieving the loss of a loved one; families struggling to pay bills; a father or mother struggling to put food on the table; a neighbour in need of someone to talk to; a family, individual or community who, for various reasons, have lost hope and need a reason to live on, to believe, to smile or even to meet with Christ and receive the joy He gives.

May we hear your voice sending us our model Christ in the places where we live, worship or work. May we point people to you, help them to know you, to hear your voice and to make you known. Use us, speak to us,

Speak a prophet word through us. Let us stand in "the Christ-centred bond of our common humanity" and in the voice from Psalm 130 sing, shout, softly whisper: "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" Amen

### Closing hymn: Trust and Obey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KB4KcleYiWM>

1. When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His Word  
What a glory He sheds on our way  
While we do His good will  
He abides with us still  
And with all who will trust and obey

#### Chorus

**Trust and obey**

**For there's no other way**

**To be happy in Jesus**

**But to trust and obey**

2. Not a shadow can rise  
Not a cloud in the skies  
But His smile quickly drives it away  
Not a doubt nor a fear  
Not a sigh nor a tear  
Can abide while we trust and obey
3. But we never can prove  
The delights of His love  
Until all on the altar we lay  
For the favor He shows  
And the joy He bestows  
Are for those who will trust and obey
4. Then in fellowship sweet  
We will sit at His feet  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way  
What He says we will do  
Where He sends we will go  
Never fear only trust and obey

CCLI Song # 22094,

Daniel Brink Towner | John Henry Sammis

### Final blessing

Leader: Go now, awakened to the voice of God who speaks in his Word and his world. As you leave this place, be listening amid the noise of your everyday life.

Be persistent, for the One whom you follow lives, his teachings and his promises are alive and at work.

Do not get discouraged. Keep asking...seeking...knocking, for moments of receiving, finding, and the opening will come.

**All: Christ Jesus is in us and with us.**

**May we find life through Him, with His words written upon our hearts, always there.**

**And may the grace....**