

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL**  
**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**23 OCTOBER 2022**

**Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=On\\_7hql6hFg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=On_7hql6hFg)

**Hymn: Spirit of the Living God fall a fresh on me x2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BagH-zTfnsQ>

Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me  
Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me  
Melt me mould me  
Fill me use me  
Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me

CCLI Song # 23488, Daniel Iverson

**Song and prayer : Thuma Mina (Send me Lord)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eik2HK7u9xA>

In his song entitled Thuma Mina (Send me Lord) the late South African trumpeter and composer Hugh Ramapolo Masekera prayed, Send me Lord. I want to be there when the people start to turn their lives around, when they triumph over poverty. I want to be there when the people win the battle against HIV/AIDS. I want to lend a hand. I want to be there for the alcoholic. I want to be there for the drug addict. I want to be there for the victims of violence and abuse. I want to lend a hand. So, send me Lord, Send me Jesus – Thuma Mina.

We join Masekela and others, echoing of words of a great prophet Isaiah (6:8) praying, Holy God, send us to do the things on earth that spread your kingdom. Send us to witness to others our my words and actions. Send us to the hurt, broken, tired, poor, widowed, abandoned, sick, and lost. Equip us, give us strength, and send us to make an impact in this world.

Thank you, God, for our brother, the Ethiopian Eunuch, baptised into your life a forebear in the family of Christ. Thank you for all of our forebears, and siblings, all of us, siblings of one another and of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Embolden us to ask in our churches “Look, here is water! What is to prevent us being baptised?” “Look, here is the table! What is to prevent us being fed?” “Look, here is love! What is to prevent us being married?” Embolden us to respond in our churches with Philip: proclaiming good news in word and in action. Make us your people, like Philip and Ethiopian eunuch, prepared to share

our faith in word and through our actions. In Jesus’ name, Amen

**The Lord’s prayer**

**Bible Reading: Acts 8:26-40** Philip and the Ethiopian

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**Children’s address**

**Reflection**

**Offering / Hymn: All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name (Coronation) – Second Service**

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name  
Let angels prostrate fall  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
And crown Him Lord of all
2. Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe  
On this terrestrial ball  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all  
To Him all majesty ascribe  
And crown Him Lord of all

3. Crown Him ye morning stars of light  
Who fixed this earthly ball  
Now hail the strength of Israel's might  
And crown Him Lord of all  
Now hail the strength of Israel's might  
And crown Him Lord of all

CCLI Song # 25400

### Prayers for offerings

Bountiful Lord, thank You that You are willing to take all that we offer to You and then multiply it for good. We know that we grow by giving in faith, gratitude, and even in want. For when we give, we give to You, and You multiply it beyond our wildest imaginations. Take all that we are and all that we have – our time, talents and money, and bless this community and grow Your church through our giving. Amen!

### Prayers for others and ourselves

Lord Jesus, infuse us with your love, gratitude, and peace. Let us feel safe in a world thriving in chaos and fear. Help us to raise our children without prejudice. Teach us to teach one another to no longer perpetuate the hatred among humankind.

Lord God, we cannot fathom the pain and suffering of so many in this world – the people we ask you to send us to. Our broken hearts and prayers extend in so many directions which only you can guide. In trust, we bring our hearts' cries to you, God of mercy, love and truth. We pray for Ukraine and Russia. Help and use us to support those who have lost so much. May we find a way to lift-up those who are hurting others and destroying the multitude of lives and property around them.

Carry us through these challenging economic times everywhere. Inflation is contributing to more hungry and even starving people and families. So much food is wasted and so many are hungry. How can we comprehend this? How do we help?

Help those living in Paris, France as they strike for higher wages to survive. Help ease anxieties of the French peoples, as in so many other countries, as they are becoming more and more anxious coming into the winter season and dealing with their critical energy shortage.

We remember the 40+ miners killed and many more injured in a coal mine explosion in the Bartın Province, Turkey. We pray for central Uganda as an Ebola outbreak is in process. We remember the flood victims and their families and communities throughout Nigeria where more than 600 people have died. Also to those in Pakistan where more than 1,500 have died due to flood and associated diseases, as in Australia, Venezuela and Kenya.

Do help us through another flu season all over the world especially in countries where vaccination programs are faltering or non-existent. New strains

of the Covid virus are affecting people as we continue to fight against this pandemic and its long-term effects. We pray for communities and cities in China and neighbouring communities battling with covid virus.

We remember our sister Church – the Roman Catholic Church - praying Pope Francis and the Vatican as they discuss the future structures of their church. Similar discussions are taking place in our own church, in our parish and in many other faith communities. We remember them in our prayers. In trust, we bring our concerns, our hearts' cries to you, God of mercy, love and truth.

### Closing hymn: My Faith Look up to thee

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGKLMThF2to>

1. My faith looks up to Thee  
Thou Lamb of Calvary  
Savior divine  
Now hear me while I pray  
Take all my guilt away  
Oh let me from this day  
Be wholly Thine
2. May Thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart  
My zeal inspire  
As Thou hast died for me  
Oh may my love to Thee  
Pure warm and changeless be  
A living fire
3. While life's dark maze I tread  
And griefs around me spread  
Be Thou my guide  
Bid darkness turn to day  
Wipe sorrow's tears away  
Nor let me ever stray  
From Thee aside
4. When ends life's transient dream  
When death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll  
Blest Savior then in love  
Fear and distrust remove  
Oh bear me safe above  
A ransomed soul

CCLI Song # 7053364

### Final prayer and blessing

May the Lord bless you and protect you.  
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord show you His favour and give you his peace.

(Numbers 6:24-26)

And may the Grace....

### Video after the service: Here I am, Lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EcXOkht8w7c>