

# Life and Work Sunday

Sunday August 29 2021

Support and celebrate the magazine of our church

Life and Work has been informing, uplifting, moving, connecting, and occasionally enraging the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. This summer, Life and Work team are offering churches the chance to celebrate that.

Lynne McNeil, Life and Work editor writes

We value and appreciate every one of our readers, which is why we are asking all of you now for your help in reaching out to others interested in the wide range of subjects covered within Life and Work and on our website. On Sunday August 29, we are inviting all readers and congregations to celebrate the Life and Work story by sharing resources, but also by simply or sharing of gifting copies and telling others what they like about the magazine. It will be a day to celebrate the legacy and all that is good and valuable about the 142-year-old magazine of our Church.

## Song: Come on and Celebrate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcM8IudedJO>

Come on and celebrate  
His gift of love we will celebrate  
The Son of God who loved us  
And gave us life  
We'll shout Your praise O King  
You give us joy nothing else can bring  
We'll give to you our offering  
In celebration praise

### Chorus

Come on and celebrate celebrate  
Celebrate and sing  
Celebrate and sing to the King  
Come on and celebrate celebrate  
Celebrate and sing  
Celebrate and sing to the King

CCLI Song # 189511, Dave Bankhead | Trish Morgan  
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## A Prayer for Life and Work Sunday

Ever-Present God, You are our life. You are the One Who, from the chaos of creation called us into being, shaping who and what we are. You are the artist and the architect. You are the poet and the musician. You bring colour and form, words and harmony into the world where we live, and the lives that we live.

Ever-Active God, With You we work: to bring peace and justice, to bring comfort and blessing into the world where we live, in partnership with You and with others, we shape and reshape our world, to make it a place where all are welcome and all find a place to be safe.

There is life to be lived; There is work to be done; for life continues to refresh around us each day and work continues to unfold in the vision You give us, and in the dreams we have for what our world and our communities might yet be. God of life, God of work, blend these twin realities for us, that in our living and in our working, we may honour You, and follow You and change this world, to Your unending glory, Amen

The Very Rev Dr Derek Browning

## The Lord's Prayer

### Bible Reading: Psalm 40:1-5

I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire. He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in Him.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.



## Brief Reflection

This beautiful Psalm of David is a joyful proclamation to Israel of what the Lord has provided for him personally. It is a great reminder of all that God has done for the nation of Israel historically and it announces **ALL** that God means to us collectively.

It is a wonderful example of the way that God carries out His plans and purposes in each of our lives. He does this in His own way and in His preferred time. He does this in order to develop our faith in His Word and to enlarge our trust in His never-failing goodness and grace.

God's people all over the world have discovered the unfolding of God's unchanging character, His gracious plan of redemption, and His faithfulness to His chosen people, Israel. God has promised in His Word to be an ever-present help in times of trouble and to work all circumstances of life together for the good of those that love Him with all their heart, fit in with His plan, and do not lean on their own understanding.

But this is not only a Psalm that has helped countless generations of men and women to develop their trust in the Lord and increase their faith in His Word. It is

a Messianic Psalm that, from beginning to end, casts a shadow on the passion of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

It was during those three bitter hours on the Cross that God's only begotten Son took the brutal punishment for the sin of the whole world upon His own shoulders. The Father turned His face away from Him and the indwelling Holy Spirit departed as He was made sin - for us. And, as this Messianic Psalm discloses... Jesus waited patiently for the Lord.. He waited patiently, together with the dying thief. His soul waited patiently for three days in the depths of the earth for His prayer to be answered according to God's perfect will.

Jesus waited patiently for the LORD. The Lord inclined His ear to Him and heard His cry. He brought Him up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay and put a new song in My mouth, a song of praise to our God.

May we who have chosen to follow Christ, follow in the footsteps of our Saviour and wait patiently for the Lord, knowing that His plans and purposes are perfect... and that in due time He will incline His ear to our cry and graciously provide all we need, according to His riches in glory.

May our names be always included in the list of God's people who, as David sang, 'see and fear the LORD and [who] put their trust in Him'. David adds, 'Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods'.

Blessings and honour be unto the Ancient of Days, The Lord God Almighty, now and forever, Amen.

### Hymn: Before the throne of God above

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

### Prayers for others

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

(Psalm 24:1)

Holy One, you have created a magnificent universe.

We raise up prayers of thanksgiving for your manifold blessings. Especially we give thanks for:

- People of science in China and the United States who have designed, launched, and landed rovers on the face of Mars to explore your creation in greater detail
- The reintroduction of Shark Bay bandicoots to the wild in Australia, an important benchmark for a nationally-threatened species, which had been locally extinct for over a hundred years

Holy One, your creation waits with eager longing for the day of your transformation. We raise up prayers for wholeness and renewal. Especially we lift up:

- Refugees from and displaced people in Afghanistan who seek safety after the Taliban seized back control of the country
- The people of Madagascar who are suffering famine-like conditions driven by four years without rain
- All those around the world who are affected by another wave of COVID-19, that people may work together for the common good

Holy One, your redemption breaks through into our world even now. We raise up prayers of praise for the ways you work through human hands. Especially we praise you for:

- International organizations providing relief for the people of Haiti after a destructive earthquake
- The "Recycle Your Electricals" campaign in here Scotland, seeking to repair, recycle, or ethically scrap small electricals, getting items into the hands of those who need them while keeping rare minerals in the ground

Holy One, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, look upon us with mercy and joy. Move us to work for the sake of this creation you call good and be present with us in our struggles and our striving. We lift these and all our prayers to you. Amen.

### Hymn: Lord Of All Hopefulness (Slane)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8mti7VL3gg>

1. Lord of all hopefulness  
Lord of all joy  
Whose trust ever child-like  
No cares could destroy  
Be there at our waking  
And give us we pray  
Your bliss in our hearts Lord  
At the break of the day
2. Lord of all eagerness  
Lord of all faith  
Whose strong hands were skilled  
At the plane and the lathe  
Be there at our labours  
And give us we pray  
Your strength in our hearts Lord  
At the noon of the day
3. Lord of all kindliness  
Lord of all grace  
Your hands swift to welcome  
Your arms to embrace  
Be there at our homing  
And give us we pray  
Your love in our hearts Lord  
At the eve of the day
4. Lord of all gentleness  
Lord of all calm  
Whose voice is contentment  
Whose presence is balm  
Be there at our sleeping  
And give us we pray  
Your peace in our hearts Lord  
At the end of the day

CCLI Song # 4778835, Public Domain

### Sending

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:13). **And, may the grace...**