

Park Pages

the magazine of Uddingston: Park United Free Church of Scotland



Pastoral Letter

Summer 2019

Dear Friends,

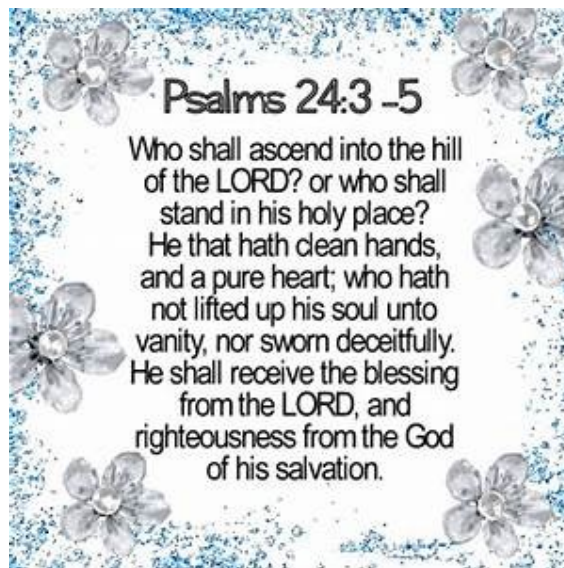
I don't know if any of you watched the TV drama *Hatton Garden*? Based largely on real-life events, it told the story of a robbery at the Hatton Garden Safe Deposit Company in which jewellery, precious stones and cash, worth many millions of pounds, were stolen.

Several of those affected were independent jewellers in the area and the TV programme focussed on one such man. Tragically, this jeweller had not insured his goods and was faced with financial ruin.



However, in the aftermath of the gang being apprehended, he is advised that the jewellery he has lost has been recovered. The jeweller had told the police that his property had been contained in a red velvet pouch and they presented him with such a pouch. However, on examining the precious stones contained in the pouch, the jeweller notes that they have been cut in a different fashion from his stones and tells the police they are not his. On leaving the police station, his wife reproaches him, saying no one would have known they did not belong to him. **"I would have known"**, said the man. In the face of ruin, he told the truth. He was distinctively different. In the midst of dishonesty, double-dealing and downright criminality, he acted honourably.

I do not know if this really happened or if it was one of the scenes inserted into the programme for dramatic effect, but it made me think of these verses from **Psalm 24**.



We are called to be holy because God is holy. (Leviticus 11:44) Leviticus can be an off-putting book, full of rules and regulations with which we find it hard to connect. But essentially it is about God creating a new community through his Word. A body of people who are distinctively different. Leviticus is intended to create this distinctive people by shaping every aspect of their lives, corporately and individually. It was not just about what people did in the sanctuary; it was about what they did in the street.

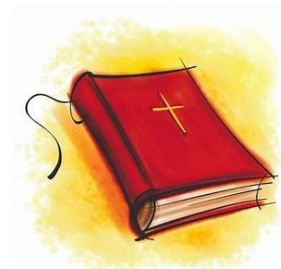
Holiness is as much about what we do on Monday morning as what we do on a Sunday morning.



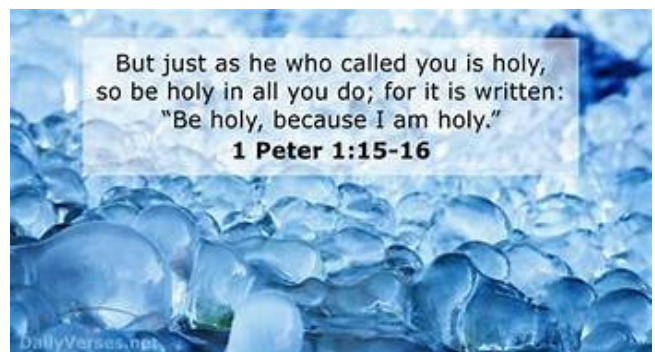
Holiness is as much about the kind of neighbour we are as the kind of church member we are.



Holiness is as much about who we are when we are holding a steering wheel as when we are holding a Bible.



We are called to be holy because God is holy. Not mostly holy, but wholly holy. This may seem to set an impossibly high standard. The letters of the New Testament to the churches show time and again God's people falling short, something we continue to do. And yet that is the standard set.



Be holy, because I am holy.
1 Peter 1:16

As God's people, we are to seek to live in accordance with God's Word, dependent on Him and the living presence of His Spirit within us. May we be given grace to do so.

Every blessing

Ian

We thank Ian for filling in when Bruce is away on Sabbatical and we look forward to being blessed by his ministry as we study God's word together.

A Word of Thanks from the Manse Family

*Thank
you*

Dear church family,

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to every one of you for a wonderful weekend back in March when you pulled out all the stops to mark our 20th anniversary. We had an inkling something was going on when Colin and Gregor checked if we were free that weekend, but had no idea about the extent of all the hidden behind-the-scenes planning and organisation that was going on!

The Daffodil Tea was a fabulous way to draw the church family together and we recognise the huge amount of hard work involved in pulling it off. Many thanks to all who beavered away in the background to make it happen. We were delighted that Rev John Fulton and his wife Margaret had been invited from the denomination, as well as Rev John Fairful, who is well known to folks at Park. It was also lovely to see Martin and Jennifer Paterson and Nathan and Steffi Owens.

We were moved by the kind words spoken and the love expressed, not to mention being blown away by your extreme generosity in the flowers, the book of comments, the leather holdall and the very generous gift of money that will enable us to extend our visit to Fabri and Elaine in Verona into a holiday. Sincere thanks.



As if one celebration wasn't enough, we had two! On Sunday 24 March, Rev David Easton was our guest preacher. We appreciated David taking part as David was Bruce's minister growing up and 'preached him in' when we came to Park.

And so a very special weekend came to an end. We are truly blessed. 20 years ago you took the manse family to heart and you continue to demonstrate your loving care. We don't take that for granted, and many another minister would love to experience that partnership in the gospel.

**With love,
Bruce, Elizabeth, Colin and Gregor**



As another academic year draws to a close, let us take time to pause and reflect on some of the stories and opportunities we have seen within the Children’s Ministry. Let us join together in praising God for the works of His hand, so we might also encourage one another in the faith.

You may recall, one Sunday in March, I spoke with the children about sunflower seeds - linking the image of the sunflowers taking root and growing with our faith being rooted and growing in God. This idea of being ‘rooted’ and having a firm foundation is one that has been on my mind over the past year as I’ve met with different groups of children and young people. My prayer is that in their early years, our children would not only know that they are part of the church family, but that they would know Jesus and want to follow Him; that they would know the Bible, not just as stories, but that they would be able to apply what it says to their young lives and learn how to use it in prayer. I would urge you to join me in echoing the words of the Apostle Paul as we pray for our children at Park.

*I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and established in love**, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3 v 16-19*



In **Park Kids** this year, we have focussed on a variety of different parts of the bible. One of the highlights for me was a series based on the Lord’s Prayer. We tackled this by breaking the prayer down, studying a line each week. We introduced sign language to go alongside learning the words for those who are more active learners. It has been lovely since then to hear the children, as they sit with their families on a Sunday, join in with the wider congregation in prayer, some using just the words while others use the signs along with it.



Connect continues to meet on a Monday evening. The group is made up of young people from a few different churches, as well as a few who have no church connection. Almost all of the young people started at Muiredge SU Group before moving on to Connect. This connection is so beneficial as it means we can build on the relationships and also the knowledge that they have gained over the years.

In January this year we used a fantastic video resource called NUA which explains the basis of Christianity, in a very logical way. Some weeks were hard work as the themes could be quite abstract to grasp. Other weeks we saw many ‘wow’ moments. While considering the plausibility of the resurrection, one young person sat, shook his head and said, “Wow, that’s incredible, the actual, logical explanation of where Jesus’ body went is that he really did come alive again!” During the final week of the material, another young person said, “this has been great, I feel it’s really given me confidence in what I believe about God”.

In March a small group attended the SU Prayer event, *Encounter*. It was a really encouraging and helpful day. As we walked back to the car, one boy said that he had loved it, adding, “I’ve been a Christian for years now, but tonight was amazing. I feel like I’ve come alive again as a Christian”.



A Friday lunchtime sees me meeting with the **SU group at Uddingston Grammar**. This group is currently made up of young people who also come to Connect. Praise God for this opportunity to support and walk beside these young people who are trying to live for God at school. We are studying Ephesians 6, focussing on the armour of God and the need for Christians to actively arm themselves as they live for Christ. Please pray for the Christian young people in the Grammar that God would enable them to “*stand firm in Him*” and that He would help them to put on the armour of God.

The **SU group at Muiredge Primary** meets on a Thursday at lunchtime. The group is small but those who come are eager to hear stories and, in particular, love to act them out. A number of the children have been on SU holidays, with four of them attending the SU Lanarkshire Primary weekend away and two others currently in the process of booking places at one of SU’s Summer Camps.



It has been an interesting year at **MEGA**. It was mainly children from the church that attended the first two events with only a handful of children from the community. However, as the year has progressed, we have seen lots of new faces and have heard lots of positive feedback from parents. We have seen a pattern forming, whereby new children have come into MEGA when one of the parents knows someone from the church. Another big influence on the number of children we have reached this year has been to do with the two outreach events we have run in place of our Holiday Club.

Marvellous

Excellent

Great

Awesome



We had decided it was time to try something different! We began our new venture into building relationships with families in our community, recognising that, unless we know the parents, the children won’t come to events like MEGA. In December we hosted a **Christmas Film Club** on the Saturday before Christmas and advertised it to the parents with the tag line, “Think of the *time* as our Christmas gift to you!” We welcomed 34 very excited children into our church to watch *Home Alone* and eat popcorn with friends. The response from parents was amazing; one parent was overheard saying: “those people at Park Church must really care, it’s so kind of them giving up their Saturday before Christmas to babysit our kids!”



At Easter we hosted a **Craft Event** in the David Milne Centre. We welcomed about 60 children and their parents at our drop-in craft afternoon. While the incredible team of creative women from our church worked with the children, the rest of our team mingled with the parents. One parent thanked us for running such a “well organised event” and to express how he was touched by the “caring way” the team led the crafts with the children.



More events are planned for later in the year, so please watch out for them and join us in prayer. We thank God for this vision He has developed to be a blessing in our community. We give thanks for the opportunities to meet with the generation of people who are largely missing from churches today. We give thanks that some of this generation are beginning to recognise us as a church that cares. Please pray that as God makes a way for us to build relationships, so He would provide opportunities to deepen those relationships and to draw more people to Himself.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3 v 20

20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Helen Ooi

The weekend of the 23/24 March was very special in the life of our congregation as we celebrated 20 years of Bruce being our minister. Bruce was inducted to this charge on 1 March 1999, and although many things have changed over the intervening years, one thing remains the same; the gospel continues to be preached here Sunday by Sunday. We thank God that we have such a faithful servant in Bruce.

To show our thanks and appreciation, we held a Daffodil Tea on the Saturday afternoon which was attended by about 120 people. The church was laid out with tables, decorated tastefully with new cloths and vases of daffodils, and laden with sandwiches and cakes. A huge thank you to the ladies led by Irene and Agnes who organised this and the team that carried out the serving duties with such aplomb.

I was privileged to say a few words on behalf of the congregation, reminiscing about the highs and lows of the last two decades. On the night of the induction, someone from Bruce's previous congregation said to me, "you're getting a good man". This prophecy has been borne out, not least during the difficulties of 2005 when the church was refused the go-ahead for the £250,000 repairs it needed and the Church of Scotland was planning to merge us with the Old Parish. Bruce's conviction that the Holy Spirit was alive in this place, and that we were to remain open to be a witness to our community, has been vindicated. We were glad to have such a strong man of God at the helm, steering us through some very turbulent and uncharted waters to the safe haven that is the UF denomination.



However, the focus was on celebrating Bruce's ministry and his faithful service to this congregation over these last 20 years. Everyone has a story to tell of how either Bruce's preaching or pastoral care, or both, has made an impact on them. These thoughts were gathered together and turned into a book which was presented to Bruce on the day. He also received a beautiful leather holdall for his travels on his sabbatical. It is said that "Behind every great man there's a great woman" and certainly Elizabeth is always there by his side, gently encouraging and supporting Bruce in his ministry. Elizabeth also has her own ministry with SU and Connect and she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The congregation also gifted a very generous cheque, presented by Elizabeth Thomson, which will help Bruce and Elizabeth enjoy a well deserved break in Italy.



Rev John Fulton said a few kind words on behalf of the denomination, emphasising the great contribution Bruce has made, both as interim moderator to different churches in the UF and also to the various committees he has sat on. John is retiring soon as General Secretary and he was presented with a cheque and a plant for his wife.



The following day we held a special thanksgiving service which was led by Rev David Easton. Park Kids presented a lovely picture of flowers made up of all their handprints—a unique and thoughtful gift. Bill Vint, our session clerk, said a few words of appreciation recalling his 20 years serving as an elder under Bruce. A celebratory cake was presented which we all enjoyed after the service with a cup of tea.

This was a lovely weekend of celebration, to show our appreciation and love for Bruce as our minister, but, above all, to give thanks to God for giving us a pastor that expounds the Word in such an engaging, relevant and scriptural manner. In the words of Jeremiah 3 v 15:

I will give you pastors after my own heart who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

We thank God that He has given us such a pastor. Here's to the next 20 years!

Psalm of Thanksgiving

by Ladies' Manse Fellowship Group

Thank you God that you are:

In Control
Mighty
Awesome
My help
Worthy of praise
Great
All-powerful to save
Majestic
Creative Patient
Loving Forgiving
True
Near to those who call on you
Gracious and merciful
From everlasting to everlasting
Wonderful
Healing
Kind
Helpful
Protecting
Caring
Powerful
Gracious
Wise
Forever
Just
Near
Saviour
Father
My all in all.

*Praise
the Lord*



Lord God, thank you that you have:

Created the world and everything in it;
Taken care of the world and sent the rain and sunshine;
Created such a beautiful world full of intricate detail;
Made us so that we can worship you;
Formed us and so you know us, and what we need;
Given your Son, Jesus, so that through him
we can be made right with you;
Walked in our footsteps, feeling our emotions
and carrying us through the storms of life;
Spoken to us when we needed to hear your voice;
Conquered death;
Continually guided;
Provided for my family;
Protected Healed;
Answered my prayers;

Made me happy;
Called me to be yours;
Taken away the power of the evil one over me
and the fear of death;
Given me eternal life;
Shown me your love and forgiveness, time after time;
Provided me with everything I need;
Been at work in my life,
deepening my understanding and love for you;
Given me words of comfort in the Bible to sustain me;
Been faithful and forgiving when I have let you down;
Answered prayer time and time again;
Taught me more about you;
Given my life purpose and meaning;
Brought me here and given me a loving church family.



Father God, I will:

Be thankful;
Find you in nature and the beauty of the earth;
Worship you for all your good gifts;
Remember the works of your hand with a thankful heart;
Praise without ceasing and teach my children;
Tell others the wonderful things you have done;
Remember all your goodness to me;
Praise you in everything I do;
Listen for your voice;

Tell the next generation;
Praise you with music, song and colour;
Teach my children to worship you,
to see your hands in all things;
To be content in the Lord, to sing praise to your name!
Pray that others can see your goodness
and bring you praise;
Seek to honour you the whole of my life;
Serve you wholeheartedly;
Praise your name forever.

Travel Blog from Ukraine

Elizabeth McDowall

Wednesday 14 February: 10pm. The doors in the Ratho Travelodge shut as Bruce leaves. Am now in charge of three young women, four 23kg suitcases and four stuffed cabin bags. A taxi is ordered for 2.45am and we head off for a few hours sleep. What if I don't hear the alarm?!

Thursday 15:February: 2.45am. Everyone is ready in time. £17 for a 5-minute journey to the airport! First a short haul to Amsterdam, then a short walk to the next gate for the Kiev flight. PTL we arrive in Kiev, luggage intact. (The English team travelling via Paris lose their cases.) Shortly we are in fits of giggles. I sat on a free chocolate handed out mid-flight and my trousers are COVERED in melted brown goo, much to everyone's amusement. Praise God! Everyone is now at ease, the fear of stern border guards suddenly gone. Soon Tima Stupak's smiling face greets us and we speed off in a minibus to find a place to eat. Over lunch I mention I need to change money. We are whisked through a dark-lit underpass, emerging at the foot of a block of flats. Behind the shops a Portakabin displays an 'Exchange' sign, ominously saying only one person at a time. Suddenly aware of shifty guys hanging around; it is like a scene from a film. Kiev is an alien, busy city of 3 million. Thankful for Tima with us. Transaction done, we speed (literally!) to Vorzel, SU's campsite about an hour from the city. We meet the English team from Newcastle and Oksana and Pasha, our guides for the week. So thankful: the girls have coped well so far!



Friday 16 February: A mix of Ukrainians, English, Scots pile into a minibus and car to head to Kiev for sightseeing. I ask Pasha, newly married, where he now lives. "At my parents", he states. This is normal; accommodation is expensive and hard to find. If you get a mortgage you can't sell the property until it is paid off, locking many into living in a small flat for life. We enjoy visiting the Orthodox St Michael's Cathedral, where priests are selling 'holy water' to queues of people. Back outside, long boards of faces line the street: the men who have been killed in the eastern conflict since 2014. One of our girls is in tears. Tima explains Ukraine's history. Much later, back at Vorzel, we meet young people arriving from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The youth weekend has begun! 'Live Christ' is the theme, and Grigori preaches.

Saturday 17 February: Didn't sleep well, lots of noise outside, and I am speaking at the 10am session.



Weird to talk with a translator. Struck by how warm and appreciative folks are. Many say thanks and pass on one thing they learned from the talk. Afternoon fellowship around a barbecue outside makes sense – a warm winter fire! The girls are given 15 minutes at night to share about Scotland & Scottish Christianity. Despite anxiety they work well together and are amazing up front! Again, prayers answered! They are mixing well and making new friends.

Sunday 18 February: Beautiful day. Worship is a mix of contemporary songs in English and Ukrainian. A final teaching session then we head for lunch, but nothing is ready! We sit patiently at tables. Grigori exhorts everyone to keep living for Christ, Nikita thanks everyone for a great weekend... we wait and wait. Finally, at 2.35pm, freshly cooked soup and potato cakes are served. Find out afterwards they expected the cooks to provide food. A volunteer quickly got to work with what they could find. Truly amazed by this and at the relaxed atmosphere. No fuss; no complaints; no restlessness. A valuable experience. After moving farewells we go through the week's programme and pray with Tima, Oksana, Pasha. To round off the weekend there is a treat of cake in a coffee shop. The gap year girls are happy and relaxed. About to head for bed but discover water pouring down the corner of my room from the shower upstairs. Judging by the wallpaper it has happened before. Am struck by how much needs to be spent on the building, and how little they have – yet how contented and thankful they are with what God gives them. Very humbling.

Monday 19 February: Breakfast comes after a time of prayer for the day ahead. Tima gets a call from the Local Authority, saying we can visit Vorzel Secondary. What joy! God has opened the door to this school, previously shut to Open Bible. The top two English classes engage well with our Parable of the Two Builders drama and ask good questions. Pupils crowd round our girls and in a flash the photo is on Instagram. Later, at an evening club, am thrilled to see growth since last year, both numerically and spiritually. Christina, who was given a shoebox last year, approaches Bonnie and gives her a wristband and a hug, thanking her for coming. She says she now loves Jesus. I can see the difference in her. Praise God!

Tuesday 20 February: Had hoped to revisit Ploske, where last year Lydia sang to us. It is not God's plan. The roads are too bad and Lydia is sick, so we head for Kukhari, two hours away. Tima leads a small church here and tells me how his grandpa planted the

church and was arrested for leading a Bible study as a soldier in Soviet times. Outside Kiev, villages are poor. Schools cater for ages 5-18. We hand out shoeboxes, aware we are giving big lads of 17 shoeboxes labelled '11-14'! No one seems to bother. Lots of smiles. Religion is kept out of schools so am nervous when the head looks at Tegan's Bible, then asks for a copy of the Samaritan's Purse booklet. Oksana however is giving thanks: the teacher has never seen a colourful, decorative Bible like Tegan's, and she wants a booklet for herself. Lunch is at Tima's aunt's: there is pork from her pigs, milk from her cow, home-grown potatoes and bottled tomatoes. We meet the cow and pigs then head to Kiev for a children's club. We're met by Luda, the loud-voiced, warm-hearted lady I remember from last year. Good to be back! There are 14 eager children, our Park Church gifts much appreciated. After this I lead a Bible study in Pasha's flat, 8 storeys up – my first trip in a Soviet lift! Bonnie gives her testimony, we sing and pray. Suddenly it is late and we hurry to be dropped off at a host family.

Wednesday 21 February: Carina & Sergei, our hosts, provide breakfast after the school run. We have fun communicating – they let us hear their choir and I share Praise Gathering. A school has cancelled, so we enjoy a morning trip to a Kiev chocolate factory joined by Tima's wife Tamara and their cute 2-year-old, Stepan. It's freezing! Great to arrive at the 'Eliada' club, warm in more ways than one. 54 excited children await, some recognising me from last year. Great excitement as we do our programme. Am thrilled at the able way the gap year girls are leading up front, speaking confidently about Jesus. We hand out gifts; the children say thanks, and some want pen friends. A late dinner, then back to our hosts.

Thursday 22 February: A freer morning, with a visit to 'Kiev in Miniature'. Located by the river, there is a biting wind and my legs slowly start to become numb! We have been here a week now and the girls are starting to wilt, the adrenalin of last night replaced by tiredness. Bonnie feels unwell and is sick at lunchtime. Arrangements are put in place for her to go to Pasha's mum's to lie down and sleep. Tegan goes with Bonnie; Oksana takes Megan and me to a mall to buy warm things. Malls are springing up all over Kiev, like happened here in the 1980s. Pasha brings Tegan back and we pray for strength and help for Bonnie. We refocus, asking God to use us as we share the Bible at another club. All goes well, and our gifts are reciprocated with a huge 'Kiev' cake! On to the Open Bible office where 14 lovely young people we know from the weekend gather for a Bible study. All apart from one or two speak fantastic English. Tegan shares her testimony and despite nerves, she



speaks boldly and confidently: God has very much answered prayer in that direction. So thankful.

Friday 23 February: Goodbyes to Carina & Sergei, who have been so hospitable. Bonnie is better! We go to a wee school around the corner. The children are aged 7 and super-excited and have dressed in national costume for us. They love the Bible story and "Allelu Allelu". We are hugged; photos are taken; the gap year girls are touched. The children's love has boosted us all. Back at Open Bible office we debrief and give thanks for the past week. Free until the next club starts at 5pm, we enjoy an art gallery. It is -5, but feels much colder. Like walking in a fridge! The club is in a cinema, with a huge stage and big theatre seats. The leader is thrilled to see us and her children sing "The Wise Man" in Russian for us. Very special. Drive back to Vorzel with music pumping out, everyone singing loudly. We feel very privileged to be meeting so many faithful, committed people.

Saturday 24 February: Reunited with the English team, we share stories of God at work. They travelled many miles to outlying villages and were warmly welcomed and sacrificially provided for by pastors who live by faith. One gave up his home to live in a caravan, so burdened is he for a village. As with us, many children gladly welcomed them and the good news of Jesus. After a time of prayer we drive to Kiev to explore its beautiful centre. At 4.30pm, feeling cold, I head off alone for a coffee, leaving the girls to buy souvenirs in the loving care of Tima and Oksana. Yura, a young Open Bible volunteer, invites us to

his youth club in an apostolic church. Enjoy that very much. Reminds me of Connect with its blend of games, teaching, and fun.

Sunday 25 February: An hour to Grigori's church in a Kiev community centre. Special to be part of this band of faithful believers. I try singing in Ukrainian. Our team speaks and sings 'My Lighthouse'. There are snacks halfway through the service. One club to go! We travel to a block of flats. Some teenagers arrive. Impressed by these Ukrainian teenagers and their spiritual hunger. Their first question is, 'How did you come to trust God?' Church was long and there has been no lunch. Finally we head to a restaurant. The girls are exhausted and slump into silence. Am grateful for Oksana, Pasha and Katya's ongoing enthusiasm, energy and chat. They are so positive about our contribution, thankful for our help, and grateful to God for the opportunities he has given us this week to speak about him. Pasha is sorry we have to leave so soon (!) and urges us to come back and bring our friends. After food, the girls revive for my treat: a night at the opera! Tomorrow we will be home, but our fellowship with the Ukrainians will continue – our love for one another deepened and strengthened. God is so good!

Come let us sing for joy to the Lord!

The Book of Psalms have always been a great source of inspiration for hymn writers, both in the past and today. We will look at two very different hymns, one ancient and one modern. Both explore the theme of God's greatness which co-exists with His loving providence.

Oh Worship the King

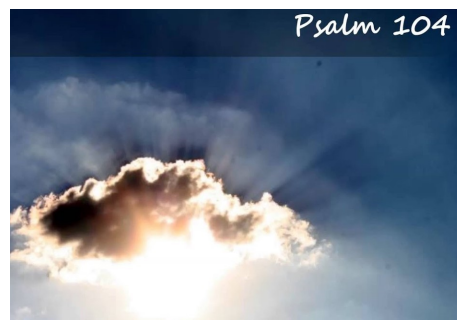
This hymn was written in 1833 by Sir John Grant who studied at Magdalen College, Oxford, before becoming a lawyer and a politician. Grant had read William Kethe's translation of Psalm 104 in a 1561 psalm book and was inspired to write his own version. This hymn is essentially a paraphrase of the first few verses of Psalm 104.

**Oh, worship the King, all glorious above
Oh gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.**

**Oh, tell of His might, oh, sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**

This is a great opening hymn for any service of worship. These first two verses tell of God's glory and the wonders of creation. The majesty of creation is evident in verse 2; we need only look at the KJV of the bible to see where the writer took this imagery from.

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.² Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:³ Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: ⁴Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: ⁵ Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.⁶ Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.⁷ At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.



God is our creator and our defender, watching over us and keeping us from harm. In the second verse we are reminded of his might but also of his grace. He has the power to ride over any storm but he also has the power to bring wrath on us if we ignore him. We see God in verse 2 of the psalm being *covered in light as with a garment*; the hymn speaks of God, whose robe is the light, and the clouds are his chariots.

**The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old;
Hath 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain.
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

Verses 3 and 4 are very poetic in their imagery and talk of God being omnipresent. God is in everything that surrounds us; the air, the sun and the rain. We see God's creative handiwork in the natural world.

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend!**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to hymn thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Verse 5 turns to humanity and reminds us of our frailty and utter dependence on God; from dust we were formed and to dust we will return. Our only hope is to turn to God and to put our faith in Him. We will not find Him wanting in any way. He is our Maker, he created us; our Defender, he watches over us; our Redeemer, he saved us from our sin and yet He is our friend and we are his people. How amazing! In verse 6 we are given the hope that we too will join with the angels in singing God's praise.

This is a hymn of praise with beautiful lyrics and imagery, giving us a glimpse of God's glory and causing us to praise Him.

To listen to the hymn, click [here](#)

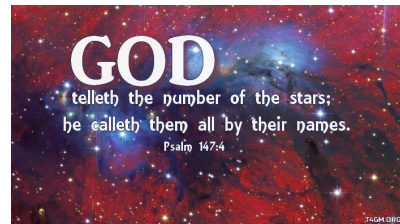
How Good it is to Sing

Stuart Townend co-wrote this song with Brenton Brown and Keith Getty in 2018 and it is very much a song of praise. Again it could be used as a call to worship. It is based on Psalm 147. The writers wanted to encourage people to sing the psalms as they are the ancient hymnal of God's people. The Psalms are one of the bible's most diverse books, expressing a wide range of emotion, but above all they encourage us to worship God.

Townend writes:

This song explores the dynamic image of God's power and might expressed in Scripture and creation, which is, incredibly, married to his care and concern for the weakest and most vulnerable among us. To see his power expressed in the icy blast (Psalm 147 v 17) and power of creation, and to recognise simultaneously that He cares for the orphan and the refugee (expressed as "exiles" in the psalm) is a profound and wonderful message for all of us, and encourages everyone to put their hope fully in God.

**How good it is to sing,
To bring our praise to Him
Whose love and mercy knows no end.
He brings the sun and rain,
He calls each star by name,
The universe resounds with praise.**



***O shout for joy to God and sing a new song,
Extol the Lord of life for his provision,
And he delights in those who love and fear Him,
All those who put their hope in God.***



Townend again writes:

I think there is an interesting parallel between the exiles of the old Testament and the way in which Scripture exhorts us all to see ourselves as exiles on earth, far from our true home with Christ. This biblical outlook on life magnifies the worldwide refugee situation we face today, and should only encourage us to show greater compassion for those who find themselves rejected, pushed out and far from home, and looking for a place to belong.

**He gathers families,
Orphans and refugees,
And binds the wounds of those who mourn;
The humble lifted high,
The proud He casts aside,
His justice faithful as the dawn.**



The song, and the psalm, emphasise that God is both powerful and loving at the same time. He is the God of nature but also the God of grace, comforting his people. He is the creator of the universe, taking time to call each star by name and the winds and waves obey him. Everywhere we look we see evidence of the power and might of God. However, this same God cares for us with the same attention to detail. His love and mercy know no end. We are called to put our hope in Him and to give him praise. How good it is to sing, to bring our praise to Him!

**What friend or foe can last
Before his icy blast?
The winds and waves obey his voice.
Yet mercy will prevail,
His love will reconcile
The nations of the earth to Him.**



To listen to the song, click [here](#)

Uddingston Pride Update



Uddingston Pride CRAFT FAYRE
From 5th to 8th June
ADMISSION FREE
TEA AND HOME BAKING £2.50
At Park Church Main Street
HOURS OF OPENING

- Wednesday 10pm to 6pm
- Thursday 10am to 7pm
- Friday 10am to 6pm
- Saturday 9.30am to 1.30pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE: 07852740554
OR EMAIL: thewilsonsholmbrae@hotmail.co.uk

Arrangements for our **Annual Craft Fayre** are now well advanced, with almost all the tables being taken up. The Fayre opens on Wednesday 5 June and lasts until Saturday 8 June, and is being held once again in Park Church. As usual, teas and home baking will be available in the Church Hall. We are hopeful that the Fayre will be well supported, and that the people of Uddingston, as well as many visitors will come along and admire the handiwork of local craftsmen.



The Park Fun Day in Crofthead Park on Saturday 27 July promises to be a great family day out, with many attractions to entertain us all. The children will, of course, be especially welcome and they will enjoy special events arranged for them, such as face painting and a fancy dress competition. We understand that Strathclyde Fire Service will attend, and bring along a fire engine for children of all ages to admire.



We have entered Beautiful Scotland again this year, and our confirmed day for judging will be Tuesday 28 July. The village will have to look its very best that day, with lots of colour and no litter to be seen by the judges. With the help of the people of Uddingston we are hopeful of a top class entry to that competition this year.



We hope you will all come out and support our efforts, so that we will enjoy another successful year in 2019.

Facebook



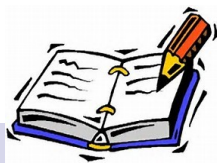
Park Church is now on Facebook! Search for us under **Park Church Uddingston**. Give us a **Like** and a **Share** so that we reach as many people as possible in our community. This is a great way to connect with our local community, both to let them know we exist and what we're all about, but also to let them know of events we are running. Pray that we would use our social media presence wisely and effectively for God's glory!



mega
Sat 18th May
4-6pm at Park Church
P1-P7



Dates for the Diary



<p>Sunday 2 June</p>	<p>10.30am Communion 6.30pm Bield Housing Service</p>
<p>Wed 5 June-Sat 8 June</p>	<p>Uddingston Pride Craft Fayre Café in Hall</p>
<p>Monday 10 June</p>	<p>9.30am It's Your Move! Visit of P7 from Muiredge Primary to the church for a morning of preparation and bible reflection on moving up to Uddingston Grammar</p>
<p>Sunday 16 June</p>	<p>10.30am Rev John Fairful</p>
<p>Sunday 23 June</p>	<p>Praise Gathering 2019 7.30pm Glasgow Royal Concert Hall</p>
<p>Sunday 30 June</p>	<p>Manse Garden Fellowship 6.30pm All welcome but especially those who have been part of our Fellowship Groups</p>



Summer Schedule

Bruce will be on sabbatical throughout the summer, visiting other churches, doing some reading and study of God's word, visiting our missionary partners, Fabri and Elaine, in Verona, Italy, attending the Keswick Convention and hopefully also taking some well-earned rest!

The Rev Ian McQuarrie is providing both preaching and pastoral care cover when Bruce is absent.

Re-Fresh will continue as normal throughout the summer on Wednesdays at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

The Open to God Prayer Time will meet fortnightly on a Saturday at 8.30am.

The other Fellowship Groups will have a break in late June and July and will resume in August.



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