

North Leith Parish Church  
Sunday 3 January 2021



*Pentland Hills*

*Click the link below to listen*

[Welcome, Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach](#)

**Call to Worship**

*(Based on Psalm 147 verses 15-20).*

*The Lord commands the earth and the seasons,*

***His power is never ending.***

*His word runs swiftly and brings winter.*

***He gives snow like wool,***

*He scatters frost like ashes.*

***He hurls down hail like crumbs,***

*His power is never ending.*

***His word melts the earth's coldness***

*He makes his wind blow and the waters flow,*

***He commands his people and His power is never ending.***

***Praise the Lord!***

**Prayer of Approach ending with the Lord's Prayer**

**Lord God**

You are our strength and our hope.  
In the beginning You made the world and You  
planned our future with love and delight.

We are Your children and we belong to Your family,  
You give us all we need for life.

### **Listening God**

You know that our lives are diminished,  
You know that in body we are  
distanced and separated from each other.  
We would return to a time of closeness and  
to a time of full community, Lord.

You are a God of goodness and  
We trust that You hear us.  
We trust that You will bring us out of the trouble  
which holds us fast for  
You unite us and gather us together  
Like a Shepherd.  
You will restore us Lord.

### **God of Mercy**

We confess our sins to You.  
We are sorry when our behaviour  
does not match our words,  
We are sorry when others would find it hard to recognise us as Your children.

Forgive us Lord.  
Grant us faith, to see Christ among us and to change our ways.  
Loving God, in grateful thanks for your care and love, we pray together the words which  
Jesus taught us to pray:-

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*Click the link below to listen*

[Hymn 103 Fill Your Hearts with Joy and Gladness](#)

1 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
Sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
    might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.

3 Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
    till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.

2 Praise the Lord, his people praise him!  
Wounded souls his comfort know;  
those who fear him find his mercies,  
    peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.

4 Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love his laws, declare his judgements,  
    walk in all his words and ways;  
he the Lord and we his children -  
Praise the Lord, all people, praise!

*Click the links below to listen*

**Scriptures**

[Ephesians 1: 3-14](#)

[John 1: 10:18](#)



*Reader Ewan Bruce*

*Click the link below to listen*

[Reflection](#)

*Katherine Taylor*

### **Music for Reflection**

[Hymn 399, My Song Is Love Unknown](#)

1. My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown, that they  
might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2. He came from His blest throne,  
salvation to bestow;  
but people scorned, and none the longed-  
for Christ would know.  
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!

6. In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb but what a  
stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heaven was his home,  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

7. Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King, never was grief  
like thine!  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

(from Church of Scotland, Joanna Love)

Lord our God, faithful and kind,  
You have always been our help.  
With and without our asking,  
with and without our recognition,  
You are the wind in our sails,  
the compass for our walking,  
the firelight for our resting.

It is Your pleasure to help, and for this we thank You.

You never neglect us. Even when we blame or berate You;  
even when we are too despairing to ask  
or too weary to find words;  
it is Your pleasure to help,  
and for this we thank You.

So we seek Your help again.  
Bring deep rest to those exhausted and spent.  
Bring deep solace to those bearing loss upon loss.  
Bring deep purpose to those plodding on in unceremonious conscientiousness.  
Bring deep release to those glad to see the back of 2020.  
Bring deep wisdom to those leading and governing.  
Bring to us all deep trust in what is possible in partnership with You.  
For it is Your pleasure to help, and for this we thank You, Gracious God.  
Amen



*Click the link below to listen*

[Hymn 320, Joy to the World](#)

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and  
plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Click the link below to listen*

[Blessing](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and  
may the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for  
evermore.

Amen

*Click the link below to listen*

**Closing Voluntary**

[How lovely is thy dwelling place Johannes Brahms](#)

**INTIMATIONS**

**Sunday Services**

Services continue at 11am each Sunday. You are welcome, but please note that currently we are limited to 20 people. If you are going to attend you must book by contacting the church office, by email ([nlpc-office@btconnect.com](mailto:nlpc-office@btconnect.com)) or by phone (553 7378), by the Friday morning before to allow us to manage the numbers, and please arrive by 10:55 at the latest.

The online version of the service is available on our new website

<https://northleithparishchurch.co.uk/online-worship>

**Thank you** to our reader and photographer Ewan Bruce

**Church Open for Prayer**

The church building is open for us all on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am until 12 noon.

Christmas Appeal The appeal, for Christian Aid's work in Ethiopia, is open till next Sunday, 10 January. Please put donations in an envelope marked 'Christmas' and put it in the collection plate or the box on the way out of the church. If you can give by Gift Aid please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes. Alternatively, if you use online banking, you can give by bank transfer to the church's bank account putting 'Christmas' in the reference field (in this case gift aid will be applied if you already give to the church by gift aid) The latest total is £800.

**Pictures**

[Christ Cares for All](#) from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.