

Church Together

Mouths That Are Shut, But Eyes That Are Open

17th August 2025



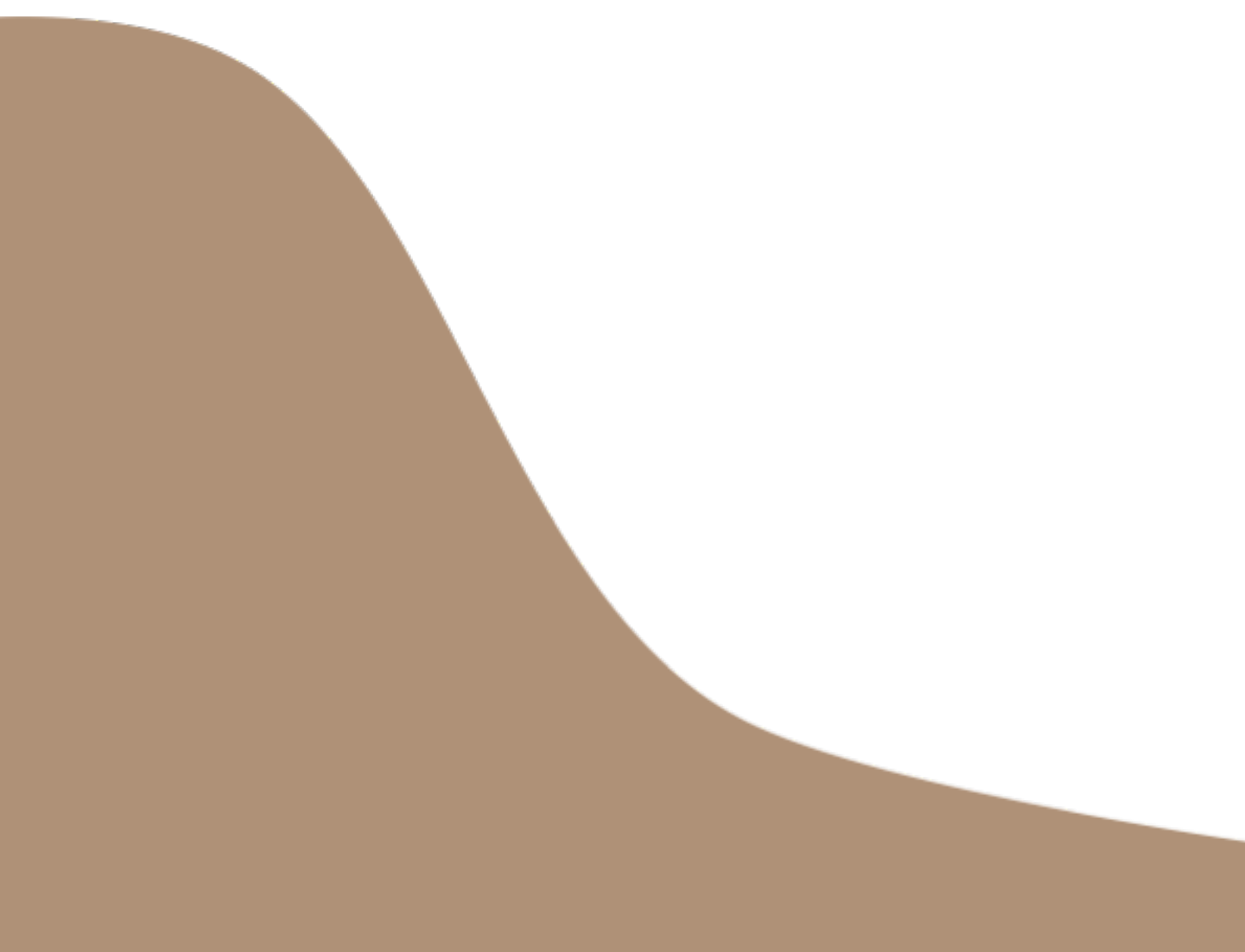
Welcome

In today's Service we will be looking at: **Daniel 6 v. 1 – 28**

The theme for our service today is: **Mouths That Are Shut, But Eyes That Are Open**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know That When Times Are Really Difficult, God Is Always There For Us**



Call To Worship

Psalms 100 v. 1 – 5 NLT

Shout for joy to the Lord, O earth!

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing with joy.

Acknowledge that the Lord is God!

He made us, and we are his.

We are his people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is good.

His unfailing love continues forever,

And his faithfulness continues to each generation.

Opening Prayer

Thank you Lord for the opportunity of being able to worship you today. Thank you for the freedom to be amongst our church family here today, meeting together in the warmth of your embrace and your eternal love.

Lord, would you fill us with your peace so that as we journey onwards, we would be able to pour out your love and grace to others wherever we meet them.

We ask that each and everyone of us would catch the wind and breathe of your Holy Spirit so that we would take your promises and live them daily in our lives.

We ask all this in the beautiful and majestic name of Jesus.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Morning Has Broken, Like The
First Morning





God is our refuge
and strength,
a very present
help in trouble.
Psalm 46:1

Bible Reading

Daniel 6 v. 1 – 28 NIV

Daniel in the Den of Lions

6 It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. 5 Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. 8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing. 10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been

published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. 11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

13 Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." 14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. 18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could

not sleep.

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. 20 When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! 22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24 At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly!

26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God
and he endures forever;
his kingdom will not be destroyed,
his dominion will never end.

27 He rescues and he saves;
he performs signs and wonders
in the heavens and on the earth.

He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the
reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Song Suggestion

Jesus Is Lord, Creation's Voice
Proclaims It



Tithes, Gifts & Offerings



If you feel that you are able to, then please keep on giving to the work of the church here at Salendine Nook, with a generous and cheerful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.

Church Together

Thought

Many of us have probably stood in front of a lion enclosure at a zoo and wondered what it must have felt like for Daniel to be thrown into a pit of hungry lions. A terrifying prospect! Why did it happen – particularly when it would have been so easy for him to have avoided the terror: not even by compromising his faith, but by just keeping his faith quiet?

This chapter is perhaps one of the most common Bible stories told to children. It's easy to understand why. The events are gripping and the principle of God as the powerful rescuer is obvious for all to see. The story is a great comfort to us all in times of trouble. But it also contains some challenges. And like many challenges from the pages of Scripture they may initially make us feel more uncomfortable than comforted.

After successful service to the kings of Babylon, as outlined in chapters 1 – 5 of the Book of Daniel, Daniel's abilities are also recognised by King Darius. Reporting directly to the king, three high level commissioners are appointed to oversee the empire's 120 satraps, a Persian title for important regional officials. However, Daniel is disliked by his two colleagues.

The text does not explicitly tell us why, but we can speculate. Possibly because he is a Jew or – and this is the more likely explanation – because unlike them he refuses to be involved in high level corruption. Either way,

they conspire against him and engineer a plot to have him legally executed, as we read in **Daniel 6 v. 4 – 9**.

It is obvious that Daniel was no fool. He no doubt realised what was happening and could have avoided what followed by keeping his worship of the Lord quiet and low key for thirty days. He didn't have to publicly deny God, just not worship him openly for a while.

We are not given all the details. For whatever reason, Daniel immediately decides that such a course of action is not appropriate, and he continues with his public prayers and worship of God. He prayed three times a day. The reason was that, in exile, times of prayer had replaced the daily sacrifices commanded in the law, as seen in **Numbers 28** as sacrifices could not take place with the temple destroyed.

After Daniel has been kept safe in the lion's den and released by the king, we are given a gory detail, as described in **Daniel 6 v. 24**. As unmerciful as the king was towards Daniel's protagonists, it does confirm that Daniel was kept safe by God's power – not because the lions were tired and not hungry!

In contrast to its extensive use with children, the application of the passage for adults is sadly too often ignored. There are various passages in the Bible which we must consider when we clash with the standards of society. But here we see that there is a time to take a stand, even if the cost is potentially horrific. Before the risk to his life Daniel had put his job on the line.

In disobeying the king's decree, he risked being removed from office. He could have argued that he should compromise so as to remain in a position of national influence, but that was not the route he took. Right from

the outset he continues to be committed to following God's law and trusts in God to deal with the consequences. At first the consequences must have been terrifying.

But the final result was positive acknowledgement of God by the king, as seen in **Daniel 6 v. 25 – 27**. So, what does this passage from **Daniel 6 v. 1 – 28** tell us about us keeping our eyes wide open to God's leading in our lives.

FIRSTLY, WE NEED TO ASK WHY DANIEL WAS HATED

(Daniel 6 v. 1 – 5)

A chaplain approached a wounded soldier on the battlefield and asked if he would like to hear a few verses from the Bible. The wounded man said, 'No, I'm so thirsty, I'd rather have some water.' The chaplain gave him a drink and then repeated his question. 'No, not now, but could you put something under my head?' The chaplain did so and again repeated his question. 'No,' said the soldier, 'I'm so cold. Could you cover me up?' The chaplain took off his inside coat and wrapped it around the soldier. Afraid to ask, he did not repeat his question. He made to go away, but the soldier called him back. 'Look, Chaplain, if there is anything in that book of yours that makes a person do for another what you've done for me then I want to hear it.'

Spiritual health doesn't guarantee popularity or acceptance by those around us. Such wholeness, especially if it is matched with ability, can be quite intimidating to those who do not have it. There will always be those who are threatened by our spiritual progress, and they may try to impede our growth. Nevertheless, we must set our minds and hearts to follow God and refuse to be swayed by intimidation.

This indeed was true of Daniel who was good and godly; there was no split between his public and private life. He was a man of great personal ability and integrity, and within his community he was a foreigner, a Jew. The qualities he had included: a sheer force of character; wisdom and discernment; competence at administration; honour, honesty and truth. His loyalty and service were an outworking of his loyalty and service to God.

SECONDLY, WE NEED TO SEE THE TRAP OTHERS SET FOR DANIEL (Daniel 6 v. 5 – 10)

Daniel chose to ignore the manipulation of his rivals and continued to worship God, who had cared for Daniel throughout his life. Fortunately, prayer doesn't earn the death penalty for most of us, but there are other drawbacks to following God. We can be ridiculed or discriminated against by people who feel threatened by our faith. No matter what opposition we face, however, God is still worthy of our trust. We must stay true to him despite the earthly consequences.

We can see that Daniel caused his enemies many problems, as we see from **Daniel 6 v. 3**. He had the position they wanted and would not collude with any corruption; he was a whistle – blower and stood in their way. So, they went to great lengths to get rid of him. He was spied upon, the equivalent of having his phone bugged, yet no charge could be brought against him; they set up a dirty tricks' department without success. He was free of sleaze, moral and financial irregularities. As such he is a great example for us to follow.

So, they set up a 'sting'. They pandered to King Darius' pride, to be unchallenged by man or god and so dulled his perception. And they attacked at Daniel's strongest

point where perhaps Daniel was not expecting an attack because they knew that he depended on his habit of prayer and realised at heart that he was ruled by his faith.

FINALLY, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PERIL DANIEL FACED (Daniel 6 v. 11 – 28)

When we look at Daniel 6 v. 11 – 17 we need to always consider how our actions will affect others. The king satisfied his ego but failed to realize the impact of this new law. As a result, Daniel, who was obviously close to the king, was sentenced to die. Before doing anything, it is important to evaluate the significance of our decisions. Will anyone be hurt? Is it morally wrong? Will we regret the outcome? If any of these questions can be answered yes, we need to consider another plan of action.

Likewise in **Daniel 6 v. 19 – 23** we see that God rescued Daniel from what was certain death. The lions didn't harm Daniel, just as the fire hadn't touched Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as reflected in **Daniel 3 v. 1 – 30**. It is clear that God watches over those who obey his will. He is able to save us when no one else can. Even when we are in situations with apparently no hope of escape, God is still able to deliver us. We need to continue to trust in him. The trap succeeded. The king was imprisoned by his own decree; Darius had been duped and Daniel framed. As Daniel faced the lions the king faced a sleepless night. But Daniel's prayer was a habit not a last resort. When the crunch came, he didn't collapse under it. The king fasted and so fortunately did the lions!

Daniel was delivered and his enemies were destroyed. And the living God was honoured. God can rescue us from tight spots, which are not our fault. But God can only work his miracles if we keep our eyes wide open on Him

and are constantly in tune with him and living his way.

Song Suggestion

Majesty, Worship His Majesty



Some Questions To Think About?

How did Daniel respond to the King's decree (v. 10)?

What does this reveal to you about Daniel's priorities?

What enabled Daniel to trust God in the Lion's den (v. 16—23)?

How can we apply this trust in our own lives?

When have you faced pressure to compromise your faith?

How can Daniel's example inspire faithfulness in you?

Communion

Jesus said: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty'. **Romans 5 v. 8** also tells us: 'God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us'.

An Invitation to the Table:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body, his People.

A prayer of Approach:

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

As we prepare to receive the bread and the cup, we hear the words of The Institution:

The Apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper, when he says: 'For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night that he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me'. In the

same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11 v. 23 – 26

A Prayer of Thanksgiving before we eat the bread and drink the cup:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and ministry, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power in the lifting of the downtrodden, and the healing of the sick, and the loving of the loveless. We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross, for the redemption of the world, and for your raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of our world and signs of your transforming love. Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we might be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

WE NOW SHARE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND SHARE AND DRINK OF THE CUP

A Final Prayer of Acclamation:

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we confess. Your final coming we await. Glory be to you, O Christ.

Amen.

Prayers Of Intercession

Let us come together this week and pray for:

The communities in which we worship, and those whose lives interweave with ours. We pray for the other local churches here in Huddersfield, may their lives of worship and service be used by you, guided by your Holy Spirit, and may they be filled with the joy of your risen Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus; and may they with us, be brought into a deeper partnership with both you and ourselves as we celebrate and serve you together.

For the many local schools in our community as they prepare to return to school in a few weeks time after the summer holidays. May they be places where children, young people and adults are valued for who they are, where education is sought after, and the best of our society's understanding is passed on to future generations. We also pray for those who have received their exams results and are now planning their futures. Places of work within the local communities around us. May those who work in them find that their work adds value to their lives and to those of others. We pray for those whose occupation is to serve within the community: for health workers, police, fire fighters, social workers and many others. May they, together with all who live here, help this to be a place where need is met and hope is given and found.

The city, town or village that we call our community. We

pray for our own town here in Huddersfield and for its own particular mix of races and ages, young and old and for its unique character and traditions. May this be a place of compassion, justice, and vision. May your will, Lord God, be done and your love be active, in our community and within us as well.

Those who are in need. We remember in prayer, the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker and those in greatest need in our community. Lord Jesus be with those who find themselves lost and alone in society. Support all those who work and volunteer to bring hope to these people.

Our families and friends. Lord, each one of us will face the normal ups and downs of life in many different ways. We thank you that Jesus knows our every situation. Help us we pray to face the different situations we face with dignity and love.

Those who are unwell and who are at home in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. So again, as we share a moment of silence together, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus, in our hearts.

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care. Please accept these our prayers, in Jesus name.

Amen



WHEN
WE ARE GOING THROUGH
HARD TIMES
IT HELPS TO REMEMBER HOW BIG
OUR GOD IS
AND HOW IT FEELS
TO HAVE OUR HAND IN HIS.

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

Song Suggestion

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus



Blessing

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

Amen