

Church In Transition

Sunday School Anniversary
27th June 2021



Song Suggestion

Come On And Celebrate



Call To Worship

Psalm 150 NIV

Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary. praise him in his mighty heavens.

Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.



Song Suggestion

Let All The World In Every Corner
Sing



Prayers of Thanksgiving & Confession

Loving and gracious Lord, we thank you that we as your people are able to meet on this your day. We thank you for the week that has just passed and for the opportunities that you have given us as a church and as individuals. As we meet here this morning we do so with joy and thanksgiving in our hearts as we come to celebrate the Sunday School anniversary. So, as we reflect and give thanks, we pray for all the children and young people in our community here at Salendine Nook and across the world. We particularly pray for Niamh, Esmee, Caitlin, Harry, Noah and Peter. Let them know your love for them and our love for them too and their families Lord. As we start to come out of this pandemic help us lord to find ways to engage with them and their families, help us to encourage Lord and not put them off. So, as they grow, they will journey with you. Jesus said let the children come to me, let us this day echo our Lord and encourage. We also pray for the youth organisations and Happy Adventures who use this building as a sanctuary for their activities, growth and learning. Lord, we place them into your care.

But Lord we are mindful this morning that this last week

we have missed opportunities to be kind, helpful and thoughtful. We have missed the opportunities to show kindness compassion and love and to reflect you in the world in which you have given us and for that we are sorry. We ask for your guidance for the coming week to help us improve and be more like you. So, Lord we place these situations, people and ourselves into your loving care asking for forgiveness, Love and encouragement as we journey with you.

In Jesus name we pray

Amen

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.
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



Song Suggestion

Be Still For The Presence Of The
Lord



Bible

Reading

Genesis 28: 10-19 ~ Jacob's Dream at Bethel

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran.¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none

other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Matthew 6:19–21 ~ Treasures in Heaven

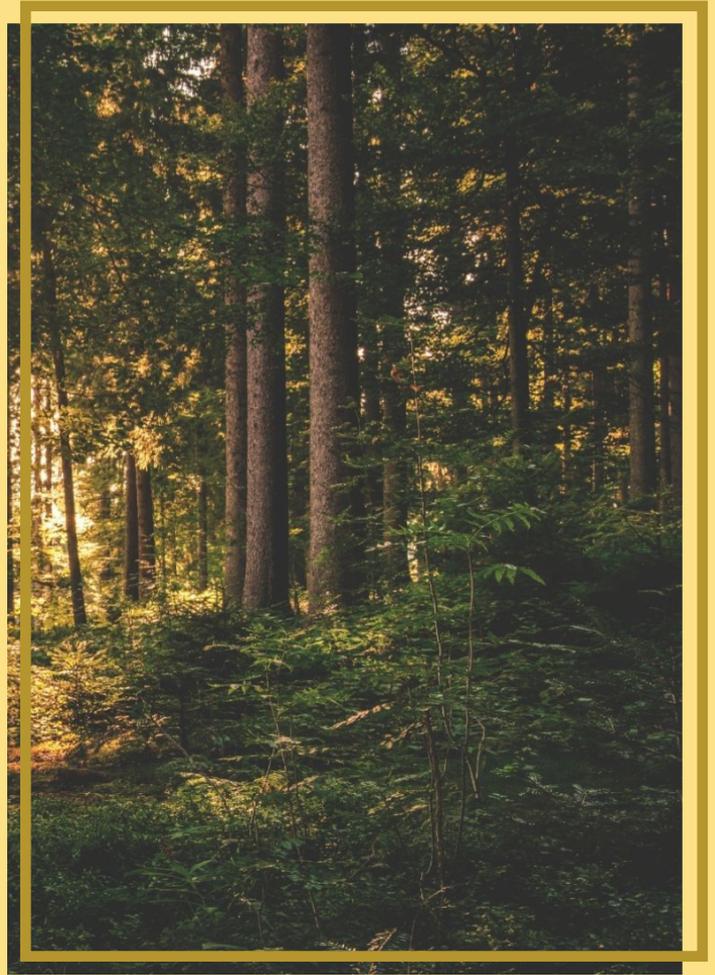
19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 7:24–27 ~ The Wise and Foolish Builders

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Song Suggestion

Jesus Stand Among Us



Reflection

Anniversaries are a really exciting time aren't they. Birthdays, wedding anniversaries, jubilees are all times of celebration, a time of excitement a time for rejoicing. And today is no different. If you hadn't already guessed, today is the Sunday School Anniversary. A day in Salendine Nook Baptist Churches calendar which is really important. It is a day when we as God's people come and celebrate the work within the community that the Sunday school has done over the years and continues to do. It's a time when we reflect and reminisce, when we give thanks and praise that we are still able to worship. It is a time when we look forward to the future with Hope, Joy and maybe a little bit of fear. Its another exciting day. See I'm still excited, but don't worry the excitement certainly hasn't been constant since Christmas. However today it is back, it is a day to be excited isn't it. It's a day to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on us, and a time to give thanks for the people in our lives that have influenced and shaped us.

Anniversary day was a day of nerves for me as a child. Hoping you would remember the words to the songs and also the verse that you had been chosen and asked to recite. It

was also nerve wracking as you usually had a new outfit and new shoes, and you were always bound to spill or fall over and scuff your new shoes or spoil your new shirt. Yeah, I'm still clumsy, but so far so good.

It was also a day of excitement as it was the only time in the year we were allowed to stand on the pews in church!! I know it was great. We also spent time with family and friends at the church the place where I grew up. We usually went out for tea to Auntie Jeans too and there was always lots of singing in all the service that took place. So, to me and many others a great occasion and something to look back on with fondness. I know I certainly do.

So, it is with many emotions that I write this service today as we reflect. You see it is the last time I will do so as Secretary of this church. Next week is our AGM and I will stand down as secretary and Joyce will also finish as Treasurer. A time of change, a time for new beginnings and a time for new ways of working and thinking to be implemented. Thank you, Joyce, for being our treasurer and for all the time and effort you have put into the work here at Salendine Nook. But most of all thank you for your support and friendship.

You see that's what anniversaries are about isn't it. Three things, Looking back at the past, Rejoicing and enjoying the moment in

the present and taking the opportunity to look to the future to make plans and continue our journey and witness. The three readings we have listened to this morning say just that don't they. We have to take all three into account if we are to move forward with Christ. I bet you are dreading the fact that there are 3 readings this morning because I know I can rattle on with just one or even two but three, it could be ridiculous. But I promise I won't go on.

So, the past. We all love a good reminisce don't we, the good old days and how things used to be. And they were good weren't they, because without them we would not be here now. History is so important and in the reading from Genesis, it tells us that Jacob went to sleep and had a dream. And in the dream, he saw God. Jacob was told that God needed him to spread the word and that he needed Jacob to help him. He promised him the land he was stood on and he would help him to complete his task. But he didn't just promise to help him he promised he would not leave him until his task was fulfilled and as we know our task and calling to God is never competed. In the dream he saw this was the place of God, a place of sanctuary, a place of safety. You see when he went to sleep, he had no idea how special that place was. Nor for that matter did he know what was in store either,

that he was in a special place but when he woke up, he knew.

This has happened time and time again hasn't it, where God has spoken to people. Spoken to people and guided them to plant a church, a Sunday school and place of worship and place of safety. When Jacob woke, he knew instantly that God was with him, God would support him, and God would encourage him. When he went to sleep, he didn't know anything, but when he woke up, he knew exactly what he must do. And this happened here too. May be not through a dream, but through faith and a will to serve the Lord. The Mortons planted the church here by listening to God's instruction. And consequently, a Sunday School was formed through hearing God's voice too. They heard God's voice in their lives and followed. They were given the land, the place and the confidence to beat all the odds and plant a church here in this area. And thank goodness they did.

The time, the work, the dedication, the loyalty all of these gifts has brought us to this point today. All under the promise and reassurance given from the guidance of God. Throughout the generations this has continued as God has spoken to individuals and groups of people both here and in other churches to keep the church moving forward. Making changes when necessary,

so that the church can continue to serve the local community wherever that may be.

And nothing has changed has it, God still guides, encourages and steers us in the right direction. Sometimes pulling us back when we get over ambitious or move in the wrong direction in order to ensure that we fulfil our promise to him just as he did with Jacob. This is so we can serve the community where he has placed us to meet the needs of his people. The need to proclaim the gospels and to bring the teachings of Jesus to all those who we meet.

And these changes have happened in our lifetime too haven't they. A couple of weeks ago it was 24 years since the current building was reopened after the alterations. This was a massive undertaking and a huge risk, but it was the guidance and wisdom from God that gave our forefathers the foresight and the bravery to make the drastic changes so that we could continue to serve God in a more powerful and more relevant way in the 21st century. So just like Jacob they listened to what God was telling them, to make this place a safe haven for those who need it most. To make the buildings manageable and to make it useful and relevant for today's society. The walls of the church should not restrict us but give us opportunities. Change can be difficult cant it and sometimes you wish we could stay in

the past but that's not what God wants from us. God wants us to listen to what's happening around us and use what has happened in the past and learn from it. He wants us to learn lessons from the past, and he wants us to take that experience and put it into practise so that we can serve him to the best of our ability here and now.

Which brings us on to the next reading from Matthew's gospel chapter 6 verses 19 to 21 which talks about the treasures that we have in heaven. He tells us not to store everything up here on earth. Because the here and now is gone in an instant the present is only the present for a few seconds and then it's gone. So, what's the point of storing things up for ourselves and not sharing the gifts that God has given us with others. If our forefathers had done that then we wouldn't have had the ability to make these changes to be relevant to the 21st century. We wouldn't have been able to serve this community like we have and like we do. We wouldn't be here as God's beacon in Salendine Nook we would have faded away.

These three verses are telling us to be generous with what we've got. To be generous with our time, with our talents and through our deeds, because all that we have has been given to us by God. We need to share them with others and in doing so we will be fulfilling our promise to God by

sharing the gifts that he has given to us. Because let's face it, what we do now and the decisions that we make in 2021 will shape the future for good or for bad for the next generations. It will shape the way that people see us as a church. God gave us our individual gifts to share with others not to keep them to ourselves. So, as we go through our daily lives, we ask God to help us to share what we have, for the furtherance of His Kingdom whether it be here at Salendine Nook or in other places.

So, the present is a time to celebrate isn't it, especially after the last year that we've had. 2020 really was a struggle wasn't it. It brought many challenges that we never thought we would see. So, it's right and proper that on this day in 2021 that we celebrate the present and look forward to the future. As a church we've survived, we have found new ways of doing things to stay together and to worship God. But as we celebrate, we also remember those who have passed away. Those friends that have gone to be with the Lord through this last year. So, as we celebrate, we celebrate that we have known them and that we have journeyed together with them. We give thanks with grateful and loving hearts that they have been a part of our lives. That they have shared with us the gifts they had so that we can be here today to worship and to

praise God. So, as we celebrate let's pause and give thanks through prayer now.

Lord our heavenly father we thank you for the people that have gone before us. For the people that have brought us to this point in time. Lord, we thank you for their dedication, for their love and for their encouragement and guidance. Lord, we miss them terribly, give us the strength to continue their work in whatever we do for the furtherance of your Kingdom here in this place. Help us to be like them, preparing the way for others to come and know you more and serve and praise you. So, Lord in all that we seek to do as your people here in this place reassure us. So, we thank you Lord for all that is past, and we place our future into your care. Amen.

Which brings us onto our final reading, the reading from Matthew Chapter 7 verses 24 to 27 which talks about the foolish and the wise. Which is a great Sunday school story isn't it. It's one that I'm sure many of us are so familiar with. There is a great chorus that we used to sing in the juniors, I'm sure Shirley will remember it.

'Don't build your house on the sandy land, don't build it too near that shore, well it might look kind of nice, but you'll have to build it twice, o you'll have to build your house once more!! You'd better build your house up on a rock, make a good foundation on a solid spot. For the storms may come

and go and the peace of God you will know.’
Yes, do you remember. Some of the words may be wrong I did it from memory! But you get the idea. You see the foolish man built his house upon the sand because it was quicker, because it was easier. He wanted the quickest easiest solution. The shortest way to get what he wanted. Which isn’t always the best. Whereas the wise man built his house upon the rock. This took a little bit longer; it was more complicated and time consuming but because he had a firm foundation his house weathered the storm. When the storms of life came, and the rain battered it, it stood firm and it didn’t fall down. Unlike the foolish man’s house on the sand which fell down. It stood the test of time; it weathered the storm and all those people who lived there were safe. Just like when we build our lives on the foundation of Jesus, we weather the storm and in turn we are strong, and anything is possible.

So, then the past, the present and the future. The Church and Sunday School here haven’t just appeared overnight have they. It took time, it took love, and it took dedication. It took dedication, love and guidance from God and he has given us a firm foundation for us to continue to build upon. To continue with the work that has already been started and to build on that even further. We have been given a firm foundation to proclaim the

gospel, to serve our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, so we can be a beacon of love in this community. (I feel another chorus coming on, well maybe not now)

Over these last few weeks and months, we have seen so many restrictions placed upon our own lives. Restrictions that have stopped us seeing one another, family and friends and doing what we would want to do. The foundations that we have been given by God and through the gift of eternal life that he gave to us by sacrificing his own Son Jesus Christ is clear for us all to see. Jesus died so that we could live freely, yes of course we have to live within the law and abide by the rules, but let's not put unnecessary barriers in the way of people coming to Jesus. Let's help people, let's be proactive rather than reactive, Let's have a positive outlook rather than negative one. Let's say Yes rather than No and let's encourage one another to reach out and help others.

As we are beginning to get a little bit more freedom in our lives, Jesus gave us freedom through his death on the cross, so let's come now and bow before him. Offer ourselves to him to continue to proclaim the gospels and to build even more upon this great foundation that has been passed to us. It's not going to be easy but with God on our side anything is possible. So, let's place ourselves, our thoughts, our words and our

deeds this day into his care. Open our hearts and minds to him to receive all that he will give us, because we can be assured, he is with us every step of the way. Right from the beginning when Jacob first placed that stone at Bethel right through to this point in time now this morning God has been with us every step of the way and he's not going to leave us now.

So, are we excited for today? Yes? Are we ready for the future? Are we encouraged by our journey so far? Yes? Have we got work to do? We certainly have but let's do it together as God's people. Let us on this anniversary day pledge and rededicate our lives to Jesus and stand united in him, to serve and worship him in all that we do and say. And in that way, we will have fulfilled our mission as God's people, to be a beacon of love, a place of safety and sanctuary and a place where people can learn of the love that Jesus has for us all. This is our mission; it is our calling. It is our time to shine, to tell all the world as our first hymn said that that Jesus is alive here and now in our lives and in this place. Let's not keep it to ourselves let's share it and keep the light that has shone for so many years going. Let keep it going for generations to come.

Thanks be to God Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly father as our times together comes to an end, we offer you now our prayers of intercession. Lord we pray for the world in which we live and for the many situations that are going on around the world. We pray for those places across the land where war and fighting dominate life, where famine and uncertainty hang over countries and communities. Lord we pray for these places and their leaders. Help them to rule fairly with love and compassion. And Lord help us too to offer our support through the many different charities and organisations. We pray in particular for CART, Tools with a mission and BMS. But Lord we especially think on this special day of all the organisations that are involved in helping and supporting children and young people. Be with their leaders as they teach and develop skills that will be invaluable as they go through life.

So, Lord in a moment of quietness we bring before you our own thought, prayers and concerns. We bring before you those who are ill and all those people who need lifting to you, we offer them to you now.

Lord hear our pray. We thank you Lord for all



that has passed, for our here and now and for the future with you. Let your love light our way and illuminate our lives. because its you who holds our future Lord. We know that things don't just happen and that you have a plan for us as individuals and as a Church too. Help us to be receptive to your word and teaching to be true disciples in this your world.

And to conclude our time of prayer we offer ourselves through a prayer of rededication. Rededication of ourselves, of the church and Sunday School and of our work in the community.

Lord God, When Jacob encountered you at Bethel, he built an altar as a testament to that meeting:

All: May our worship today reflect your encounters with us in our own lives.

Leader: The people of Israel carried a tent to house the Ark of the Covenant and your holy spirit:

All: May our faith travel with us beyond these walls and into every aspect of our lives.

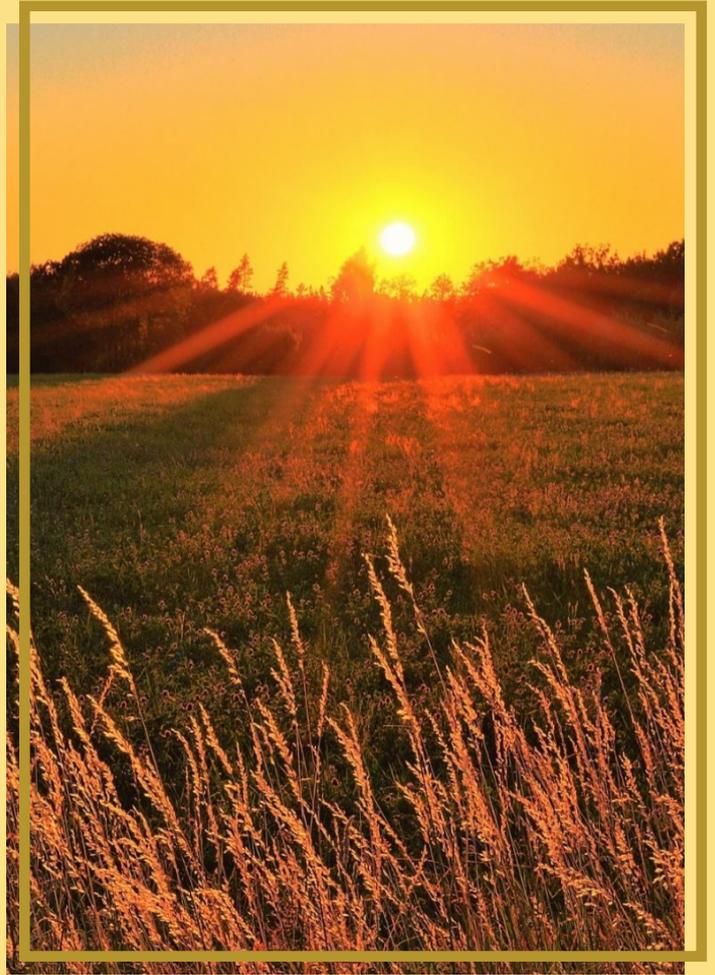
Leader: Our forefathers in faith built this chapel and Sunday School as a sign of their devotion and service to you:

All: May our vision for today and the future honour those who have paved our way to you.

Today, Lord, you call us to be Living Stones: May our worship, our faith, our devotions and our vision overflow with your love, mercy, justice and Holy Spirit, so that we may be living proof of your life in us and our life in you. Amen

Song Suggestion

Father Hear the Prayer We Offer



Blessing

May the Lord Bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon
you, And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon
you, And give you His peace.

Amen

Let's go out into the world to serve the
Lord

Amen