

Church In Transition

The Intervention of God
2nd May 2021





Welcome

Welcome to Church in Transition.

We are now back worshipping at Church in our in-person services. We have decided that for the foreseeable future we will be continuing with our flexible worship patterns which will still blends online services, home deliveries and emailed copies of Church in Transition.

Today's service will be looking at: **Daniel 6 v. 1 – 28**

The theme for today's service is: **The Intervention Of God.**



Today's service that is set out in this edition of **Church In Transition** includes **Communion**.

If you are still following us on the Church Website then please have your Communion ready with you in order to share at the appropriate time.

We hope that you will be able to engage with what has been produced for our **Sunday Service** and that you would indeed **Know The Intervention Of God in your own life today**.

Call To Worship

Psalm 9 v. 1 – 2 NLT

I will thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all the marvellous things
you have done.

I will be filled with joy because of you.
I will sing praises to your name, O Most
High.



*"May your God, who you
serve so faithfully, rescue you."
Daniel 6:16*



Opening Prayer

Lord, our God, today is your day. A day when we come to worship and exalt your Holy name. Living God: in this building here at Salendine Nook, used to the sound of singing; this building which has seen baptisms and funerals; this building where people have come to be married, or to celebrate the birth of a child; this building where people have wept, and been filled with joy; this building where people have wrestled with the deep things of life, have prayed urgently, been stirred and changed; in this building where you have so often been with your people, be with us now today we pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you declared yourself the way, the truth, and the life. Reveal to us today we pray, your truth, and inspire us we pray, with your life, that now and at all times we may find in you the way to the Father.

Loving Lord Jesus, in the security of this moment, we confess to you that we have often failed to live up to the reasonable

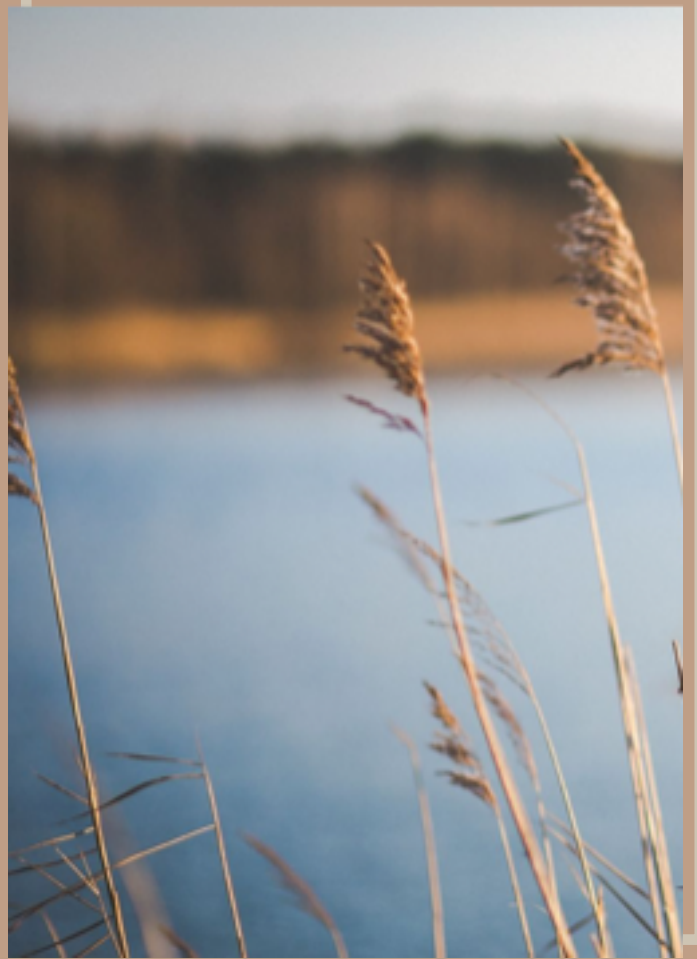
expectations of others; we have fallen short of our own modest standards and we are far from being all that you would have us to be. We have hurt our fellow men and women, disappointed ourselves and added to your suffering. In the name of Jesus who welcomed sinners and lifted up the downcast, we ask you to forgive us for what we have done and what we have made of ourselves. Refresh our faith we pray, in your willingness to accept us, help us enjoy our standing as your much loved children, and enable us to live lives in which you can take delight today, we pray.

We ask these prayers as we come to you this day, in the precious and glorious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Only By Grace Can We Enter



Mighty To Save



DANIEL

was taken up out of the den, and

NO kind of **HARM**

was found on him,

because he had

Trusted

in

HIS GOD

DANIEL 6:23

Bible

Reading

Daniel 6 v. 1 – 28 New International Version

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

How Deep The Father's Love For Us



Be Thou My Vision

Offering



Now that we find ourselves once again holding in-person services in church, we are able to give of our finances to the work of the Lord when we are in church.

However, if you feel that you are not ready to return to in-person services yet, please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you until the time arises when you feel that you can physically meet with us again and share in the finances of the church.

Prayers of Intercession

Creator God, we praise and thank you for the earth and the wonder of its life: the beauty of landscape, sky and seasons; the variety of animals and plants; with their intricate interdependence; for making us to be part of it all, shaping landscape, affected by seasons, partners in creation.

Redeemer God, we praise you for Jesus Christ and the glory of your work in him: his life in all its fullness of doing and being; his following through of your way to the end; for your raising of him and all who follow him. Help us to be more like Jesus.

Inspirer God, we praise and thank you for human history and the richness of our inheritance: the heights of human artistry and the depths of human understanding. You come to us by your Spirit and perform your work of new creation.

Generous and bountiful God all good things come from you and now we give you thanks. God of kindness, you gave your only Son, because you loved the world so much. We pray for the peace of the world. Move among us by your Spirit, break down barriers of fear, suspicion, and hatred. Heal the human



Church In Transition Thought

Someone once shared the following event: 'I remember my father teaching me to ride a bicycle. My toes would stretch to the ground. I sat unsteadily, but knew that Dad's hand was on the back of that too - high saddle. 'Don't let go!' I yelled, as he ran beside me. Did he listen? Of course he did, but he still did nothing to stop me crashing when he let go! I simply could not work out how to slow down, slide off the saddle and get my feet on the ground before the bike fell over. My father, however, knew that I had to be able to do it without him.'

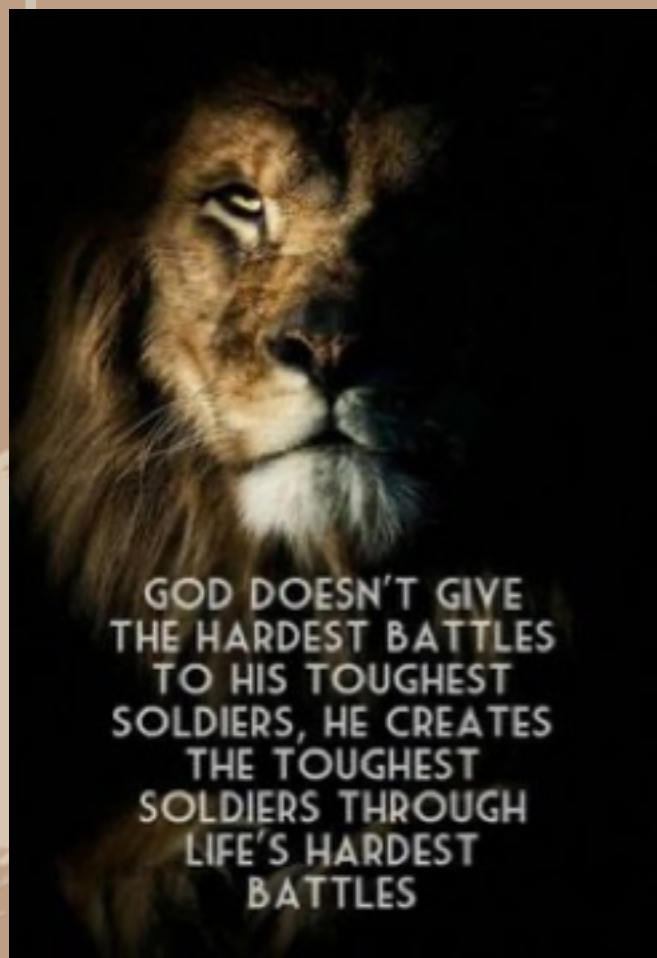
A question frequently put to Christians is why God, if he exists and has the power to do anything, does not intervene to prevent evil and suffering. Why does he so often appear to be deaf to our cries for him to do something?

God, help me!

WHO EXACTLY WAS FREE?

Darius the law - maker found himself trapped as victim of his own decree (**Daniel 6 v. 14**). Daniel, whose allegiance was to the law of God, remained free to defy a merely human regulation (**Daniel 6 v. 10**). Once more the story shows God's ability to act spectacularly on our behalf, and his active care for his people (**Daniel 6 v. 27**). But more importantly, it shows that no earthly laws are absolute and unchangeable; God's law overrules all (**Daniel 6 v. 26**). Even King Darius was forced to recognise this. Darius was able to see the awesome power of Daniel's God, and he was also relieved of the guilt he felt for sentencing Daniel to death.

As we are patient in our sufferings, we may find that God is using us to reach others. Those who mistreat or persecute us, whether intentionally or unintentionally, need God as much as we do. When God reveals himself to them through us, their lives will change, and they will want to tell others of the power of God as well, just as Darius did!



GOD DOESN'T GIVE
THE HARDEST BATTLES
TO HIS TOUGHEST
SOLDIERS, HE CREATES
THE TOUGHEST
SOLDIERS THROUGH
LIFE'S HARDEST
BATTLES

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



Communion

Today is a Sunday when we would normally share communion together. We come together today remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made on the Cross for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church or at home as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together.

We are able to do this by getting a small glass of red juice **(fruit juice, squash etc.)** and a small piece of bread and 'sharing these elements' at a time that is convenient to you.

(Normally as a church we will do this during the morning service at about 11.30 am)

Our normal practice is to say these words:

For I receive from the Lord what I pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, **(you might like to pray at this point)** he broke it and said 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' **(This is the time to eat the bread)**. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **(Now is the time to drink the cup)**. For whenever you eat of this bread and drink of this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

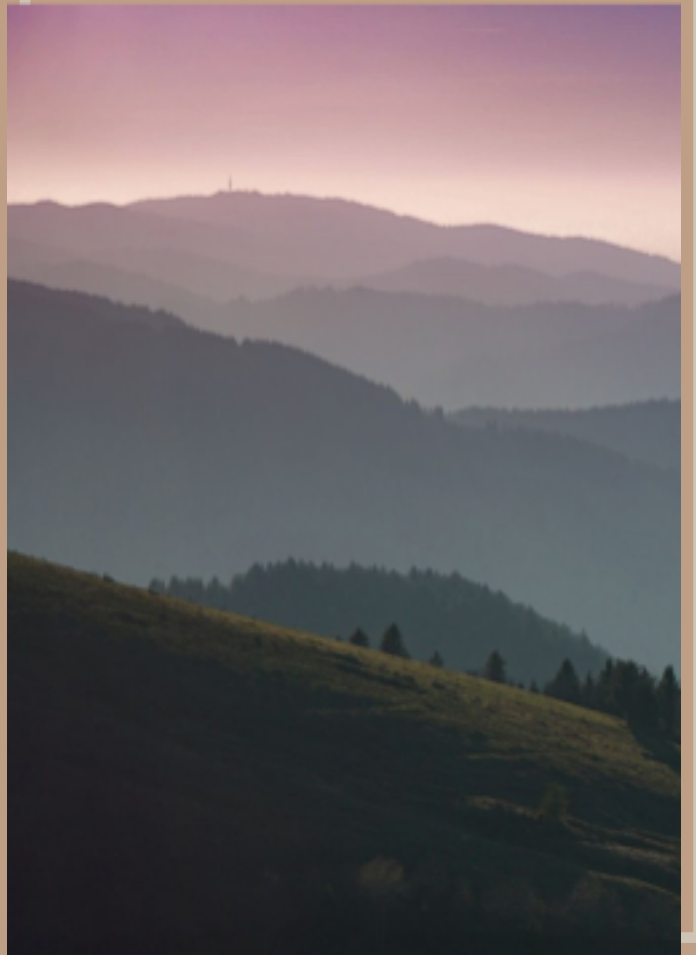
1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 – 26

If you would like to do this today with us, if you are at home, then please do so, and may the Lord's richest blessings be with you today.

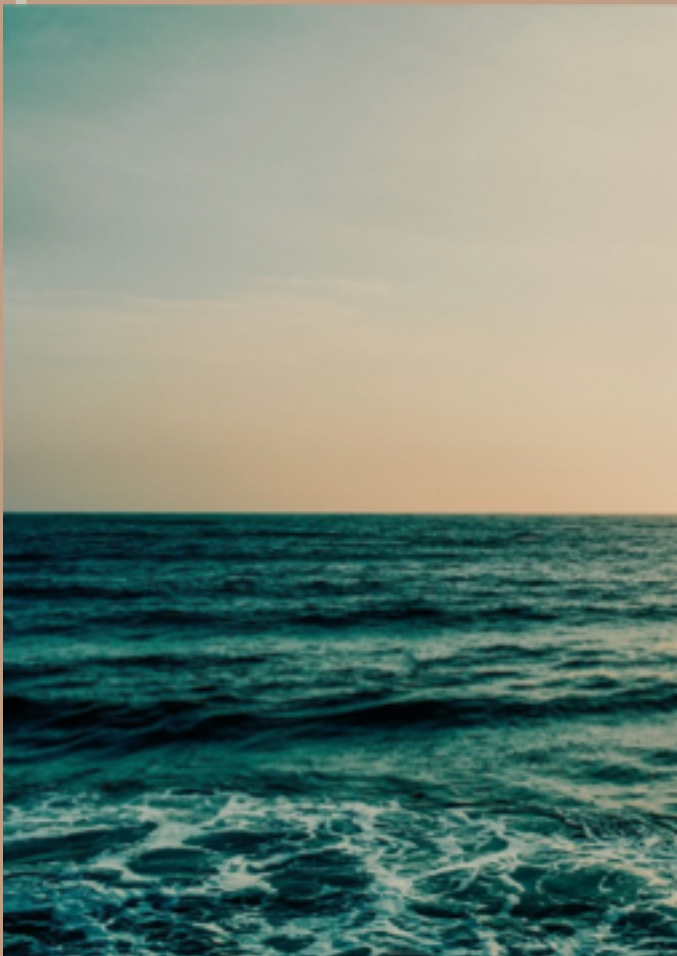


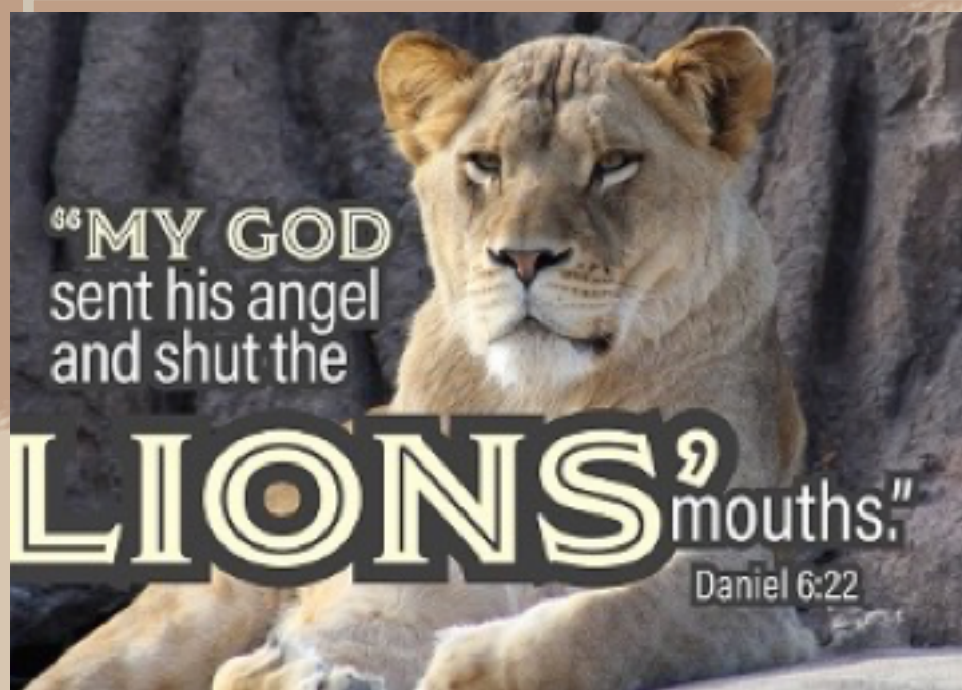
Song Suggestion

The Splendour Of The King



I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky





Blessing

May you be strong to grasp, with all God's people, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, and to know it, though it is beyond knowledge. So may you attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God himself.

Amen