



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
WEDNESDAY WORDS
14 May 2025
Scripture Psalm 148



Prayer

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.
Praise God, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
Praise God, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise the Lord, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

Let us praise the name of the Lord,
for at God's command all things were created;
God's splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

(Paraphrase Psalm 148)

Thanks & praise prayer points

- For the world and for the splendour of creation.
- For the stars of heaven, the moon and the sun.
- For scientists who teach us so much about your world and your creation.
- For members of the church congregation who contribute to rosters, especially remembering those who contribute to the maintenance of St Ninians' beautiful gardeners and prepare the flowers in the church each week.

Forgiveness prayer points

- That we fail to sit and listen for your voice in silence.
- That we fail to appreciate the natural beauty of the Earth than is around us.
- That we let ourselves be overwhelmed by concerns and do not let your creation inspire us spiritually.
- That we do not always take good care of your creation, and waste what you have given us.

Words of Grace

We are God's people, and God is with us and is our God. God has promised: 'I will wipe every tear from your eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' Know then, that God has forgiven you your sins.

Amen

Reading: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² young men and women,
old men and children.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the Lord.

Reflection

Often when we think of worship and praise, our thoughts turn to Sunday gatherings and human voices lifted in song. This psalm reminds us God's whole creation offers up praise in a constant unending voice.

The psalm begins the chorus in the heavens with God's angels and hosts (verses 1-2). Next the sun, moon, stars and clouds join in (verse 3). Verses 5-6 provide the reasons for this praise – because God created them and has a purpose for their creation. What God has created sings praise to God simply because they exist! Creation rings out in joy for the very purpose God has set it in place to do. When we are too busy, the sun and the stars and the moon and even the clouds glorify their Creator.

At verse 7, the sea monsters and the ocean depths, along with the fire and hail, and snow and frost, and the stormy wind join to celebrate God's purpose. And then the surface of the earth is heard; mountains and hills, trees and wild animals, domestic animals and the birds (verses 9-10).

All of this praise and song and celebration goes on before humans ever open their mouths! Everything made, even animals and creatures which scare us, sing to their Lord and Maker.

The heavens and everything in them are called praise the Lord for the fact that God has created them and given them a purpose in creation. We are part of this creation; and are called too to worship and glorify God.

And then in verse 14 there is a shift in the emphasis of what God has done. That is, God has "raised up for his people a horn....". A horn may be a musical instrument or may be the horn of an animal. Indeed, in the temple period sheep or goat horns were often used as a musical device, the Shofar. The image of a horn is used throughout Scripture as a reference to power and might, like the horns of an ox or a ram or the Dragon of Revelation chapter 12.

Some scholars read verse 14 as a reference to Israel. After a time of weakness, such as the exile, God has once again raised them to power and dignity. Others see this as a reference to a new King, a regal Savior, like David.

Whichever interpretation we prefer, it is easy to read verse 14 as a prophecy pointing to Jesus Christ. It is possible to read Psalm 148 as a Psalm of enthronement. In Jesus resurrection, God has raised up a new King and placed him on the throne at the centre of the universe and creation, worthy to be praised.

I doubt that the Psalmist had this vision in mind, but it fits what the New Testament says about the Resurrection and Kingship of Jesus.

If we take that view of the Psalm, then it reminds us that the resurrection was an event of universal significance. It was not just a little one-off event that happened in a dusty corner of this third rock from the sun at a particular moment in human history. The resurrection of Jesus was the event that all of heaven and earth had been waiting for. So, when Jesus Christ rose from the dead, all of heaven and earth is summoned to join in praise.

So what does this mean for us? Should we, like the rest of creation, offer constant praise? The psalms certainly imply this is the preferred state of all of creation including us. Yet things seem to get in the way. Other things occupy our minds. There is so much to do that praise is usually reserved for Sunday mornings. We may try and count our blessings and remember all of the gifts of God, but often it is only for a few moments each day. Then we are back to our everyday lives.

We need to keep finding time in our busy lives to praise and honour God. For God has made the whole of creation, giving it a purpose and an order. And God has given us his Son, Jesus Christ.

So let us worship God. God has raised up a horn. Christ has risen. The King has come. Praise the Lord.

Amen

Intercessory Prayers

Lord God, we pray for all of your creation, the heavens and the earth, all that is in the sky and the sea, and the creatures of the earth. Help us to care for and treasure your creation. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of our country, particularly when they make decisions about the natural environment and resources. May they be good stewards of your creation for the benefit of all.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of our church and give thanks to all who contribute to the life and witness of our congregation. We pray for those who care for the gardens and buildings of St Ninians, and who work for social justice in the community around us.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those known to us who are sick, in distress or lost a loved one. Be with them, comfort them, and show them your love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, from climate change, and from pollution or damage to the environment. Protect and care for them.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those affected by war and conflict, particularly those in Gaza and the Middle East, Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Ukraine. Bring peace to our world, this your creation.
Hear the prayers we bring to you Lord God.

Amen.

Song: All creatures of our God and King



1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2. Thou rushing winds that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3. And all ye saints of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

4. Let all things their creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.