



**ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH
PRAYERS AND REFLECTION
June 3rd 2026**

Based on *Job 39:26-40:5*

²⁶ *"Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars
and spreads its wings toward the south?"*

²⁷ *Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up
and makes its nest on high?*

²⁸ *It lives on the rock and makes its home
in the fastness of the rocky crag.*

²⁹ *From there it spies the prey;
its eyes see it from far away.*

³⁰ *Its young ones suck up blood,
and where the slain are, there it is."*

40 And the Lord said to Job:

² *"Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?
Anyone who argues with God must respond."*

Job's Response to God

³ *Then Job answered the Lord:*

⁴ *"See, I am of small account; what shall I answer you?
I lay my hand on my mouth.*

⁵ *I have spoken once, and I will not answer,
twice but will proceed no further."*

OPENING PRAYER

In the stillness of my heart, I contemplate just how majestic your creation is, O Lord of my life. Like the hawk soaring on the wind, I want to understand my place in your vast design. Teach me to reference your wisdom in times of suffering, recognising that your perspectives surpass my own. As Job learned humility before your greatness, I also acknowledge my limitations. In my silence, I listen for your voice, inviting me to trust your answers to my prayers, and your plan for your creation. Help me to respond with awe, wonder and reverence, embracing the mysteries of life as I journey closer to you. Amen.

PRAYER POINTS OF THANKS

- Thank you, God for the wonder of creation, from majestic birds in the sky to the intricate details of our world.
- Thank you, God, for always being one or two steps in front of me, I am grateful that I can put my trust in you when life is 'hard going' even when I don't fully understand what's happening around me.
- Thank you for God, for each revelation of your character and nature through the scriptures

PRAYER POINTS OF PRAISE

- praise to you Lord as I lift your name high as the One who understands all things, I am very small in the scheme of things in this world, but your understanding surpasses all understanding as you know the bigger picture.
- praise the Lord for your perfect timing for all things, as witnessed through the many seasons nature and my life.
- praise God for the many challenges in my life, they are like a continuing conversation that never ends as we work our way through each challenge which has lead to a deeper faith and understanding.

PRAYER POINTS FOR CONFESSION

- I confess Lord, at times I have limited understanding what's happening in my life which have caused to doubt- forgive my lack of trust.
- I confess my impatience for a positive outcome and taken things into my own hands, again I haven't managed to cultivate a trusting heart.
- I admit the times when I have not reflected your love and wisdom in my interactions with others- Lord, help me to do better.

WORDS OF GRACE

Lord, I have placed the worst of my thoughts and actions into your hands of love, mercy and grace. You have promised to cleanse me when I confess my sins. I do now so confess and rest peacefully in the cleansing palm of your hand. Thanks be to God amen.

REFLECTION

Job is one of those books in the bible that many people find uncomfortable to read as it stirs up questions we may not want to ask or afraid of the answers. However, that's part of the challenge that God presents us with. How can we reconcile a God of love and compassion with the God who allows all these awful things to happen to such a man of faith who at the end of his trauma has

maintained his strong faith and been rewarded for it. God has a series of questions that emphasises God has sovereignty over all of Creation. The conversation between God and Job reveals to us two things; the magnificence of God's creation and our limitation to understand what God is doing for us. When God asks about the hawk and the eagle, God is showing us the intricate ways in which God has equipped each creature for its purpose in the world, sharing with us how everything is intertwined including God's wisdom.

As we think more on this passage, we soon come to the conclusion that God isn't located in some mysterious far, far away place creating things, God is here with us, intimately involved in our everyday lives, in each aspect of creation. The *hawk, soaring on the wind, is a reminder that God provides for all creatures, witnessing all things, ensuring their roles are fulfilled in their seasons of life. This can be comforting for us, as it assures us that we are also known, cared for, and given a real purpose by our Creator God.

God's questions also serve to humble us. When God challenges Job with 'Anyone who argues with God must respond' we soon realise our own limitations. In our struggles, we often find ourselves searching for answers, wanting to understand the 'why' behind our circumstances. God's response beckons us to see where we fit into God's grand story of creation, where we are aren't the noble judges of wisdom – that's God's role. Instead, we're called to trust in the God who sees the bigger picture and holds it all together.

This kind of humility is essential in our walk of faith. We may not always understand our circumstances or why certain things are happening around us, but, like Job, we can learn to respond with reverence and awe. God's desire is for us to lean into our faith, especially in times of uncertainty. It's in surrendering our need for control and answers that we find true peace, which often comes at the last minute.

Ultimately, Job's reading teaches us about the importance of recognising God's authority and sovereignty over creation. As we confront our own challenges, may we also find the courage to trust in God's greater plan for us, resting in the assurance that God does care about us, is working for our good, has compassion for us in ways that sometimes seem to obscure. Through this, we can always choose to delve even deeper into our relationship and understanding that God loves us unconditionally and deeper than deepest ocean, higher than the highest mountain, and to use an expression my grandchildren use, 'I love you to the moon and back'.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Creator God, you have supreme authority over all of creation, the heavens and the earth. As you care for the hawk and creatures of the air, I ask that you

extend your provision and guidance to those in need. Intercede for the weary, the oppressed, the hungry of mind, body and soul, and those questioning their purpose. Grant them faith to trust in your wisdom, just as Job learned to do. Help each of us to embrace humility and to acknowledge our limitations, leaning on your strength in times of uncertainty. May we all find comfort in your presence, knowing you are sovereign over all life and life's challenges. Amen



*Hawk refers to the sparrow hawk, which isn't resident to the Levant (today's Syria/Palestine) but stops there in its migration south for the winter.