Trust in the Midst of Trouble

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Preacher: Rev Colin Macleod

[0:00] Two more short readings from God's Word, again from the first book of Samuel, reading first of all here from chapter 21, 1 Samuel 21, reading from verse 10, and then turning forward to the book of Psalms.

1 Samuel chapter 21, and reading from verse 10. As David's plight continues to deteriorate, David arose and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

And the servants of Achish said to him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of them in dances, saying, Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands?

And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of Achish the king of Gath. And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad. Wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of madmen, that ye have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence?

[1:21] Shall this fellow come into my house? David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam. And turning forward to the book of Psalms, reading from Psalm 56.

Psalm 56. A psalm that gives us an insight into the heart of David, as he came to terms with and struggled with this awful and horrendous pressure that has unfolded around him.

Reading Psalm 56 from the beginning. Be merciful unto me, O God, for man would swallow me up. He fighting daily oppresseth me. Mine enemies would daily swallow me up, for they be many that fight against me, O thou most high.

What time I am afraid I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word. In God I have put my trust. I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Every day they arrest my words. All their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together. They hide themselves. They mark my steps when they wait for my soul.

[2:38] Shall they escape by iniquity? In thine anger cast down the people, O God. Thou tellest my wanderings. Put thou my tears into thy bottle. Are they not in thy book?

When I cry unto thee, then shall my enemies turn back. This I know, for God is for me. In God will I praise his word. In the Lord will I praise his word.

In God have I put my trust. I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Thy vows are upon me, O God. I will render praises unto thee. For thou hast delivered my soul from death.

Will not thou deliver my feet from falling? That I may walk before God in the light of the living. Amen. And may God bless his word to our hearts.

To his name be the praise. Let's bow again in prayer for a moment together. Lord, we bow before you tonight. And we ask that as we study together the scriptures, may it please you, Lord, to be our teacher.

[3:45] Lead us, Lord, as we consider your truth. And may it be as we consider the ancient text, that, Lord, we would learn in you something of the glory and splendor and wonder of your grace and the beauty and joy there is in the good news of Jesus Christ and him crucified.

We thank you, Lord, that while we consider your word, we do so in the light of that great testament and declaration that Christ Jesus come into the world to save sinners.

And so we gather tonight, Lord, in worship and in anticipation, anticipation of what you would say to us as we open the sacred text and join together in humble dependence before you, Lord.

Lord, open our hearts to your truth. Be with us as we go into the week ahead. And help us, Lord, in that week to live in a manner that is pleasing and acceptable before you, seeking to honour your name and follow you in every way.

We pray, Lord, that you'd bless and watch over this community, bless and watch over this congregation, guide them, their elders and all the people who attend here, that they, Lord, would know your heart, that they would know your leading as they go forward into this year.

[5:04] Lead them, Lord, to the one who would be over them. Lead them to a pastor and one who would preach the good news of Christ in the midst day by day. One who would walk with them on life's journey and would be close by them day by day.

Bless them, Lord, we pray, with a new chapter. And may that please you to open that chapter, Lord, soon in their experience, that they would know this is of you. And so, Lord, we ask as we pray for the cause here in Tolstah, for the cause, your cause on our island and across our nation.

And we ask again, Lord, for your blessing to accompany the gospel as it is declared across Scotland this evening. There are many churches and congregations and fellowships meeting just as we are this very hour, exploring the good news, singing praise to the living God.

May it please you, Lord, to grant us by your grace such an enthusiasm that we would rejoice in our worship and be steadfast in our witness.

We pray, Lord, tonight for those who know suffering and anxiety. We pray specially for the situation that has unfolded in Texas and the United States.

[6:16] We see such heartbreak. We can scarce begin to imagine what it must feel like for those families to have lost so many little ones from that town. And we see, Lord, scenes of people crying out to you in prayer.

And we ask, Lord, as these candles are lit and as vigils are held and as prayers are offered, we pray, Lord, that the gospel of peace and the Christ of peace and the God of comfort would be at work in those homes and in that town.

And as we pray, Lord, for Texas, we remember the situation in Ukraine where, Lord, we see war leading to be reavement and death and suffering and fear.

We see millions displaced and a new refugee crisis. We see a hunger crisis. We see a cost of living crisis. Lord, we ask that you would restrain those who would impose themselves on others.

We pray that that naked aggression from Russia would be restrained, that their political pride and ambition would be restrained and that by your grace, Lord, you would intercede and bring an end to that war that the people there would again know peace and stability, the things that we take for granted day by day.

[7:34] Lord, we thank you for the things we receive each day at your hand. We acknowledge our dependence on you and we rejoice in your benevolence and we ask now that you would be with us as we continue to worship together.

For Jesus' sake, amen. But we'll sing once more from Psalm 116 before turning back to the book of Psalms and looking at Psalm 56 this evening. We'll sing from Psalm 116 and sing from the beginning of the psalm.

Psalm 116 I love the Lord because my voice in prayer seated here I, while I live, will call on him who bowed to me his ear. Psalm 116 and we'll sing to verse 7 to the praise of God.

Psalm 116 I, the fled Lord because my voice found the mercy did hear I, while I live, will call on him who bowed to me his ear.

Of death the courts and sorrows did about me come pass round the pains of hell to hold on me my grief and trouble found upon the king of God the Lord then did I go and say deliver my my soul O Lord I do thee humbly pray

[9:55] God merciful and righteous is Jesus I I, God I sant' Lord, for thou and my soul did I return unto thy quiet rest.

For our hearts lay low, the Lord to thee, his bounty hath expressed.

If you would turn with me in your Bibles to Psalm 56, that psalm we read from together. Where we see a very honest appeal to God.

A reality check, if you like. Particularly the words of verse 3. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. I don't know if the boys and girls, the young ones who are here this evening, already know what they want to do when they finish school and move on.

Or what they want to be when they grow up. When I was coming to my school time, I had decided to do what I always wanted to do, which was to leave home and join the army.

[11:50] And that's what I did quite a few years ago. 1986. That's quite a while ago. I didn't do maths in school, but it's about 40 years. Maybe not quite that long. And when I went away, I discovered, at a moment in time when I really needed to discover it, this psalm.

Because I was a little bit afraid. It was a wee bit intimidated. I felt that I was the only Christian in the barrack room. As it turned out, I was. But what was going on was that the devil was giving me a really hard time.

And I was afraid. And my imagination was running riot. I thought the boys are going to bully me and they're going to be picking me and I'm going to be on my own. It's going to be a difficult time. And it wasn't.

And in that time, as I was a bit afraid and a bit uncertain and trying to make sense of things, I discovered Psalm 56, the first time I read my Bible alone in the barrack room that night.

And I came across these words in verse 3, and I have never forgot them. What time I am afraid I will trust in thee. And I learned that night something I've never forgot.

[13:01] That if we give the devil the opportunity, he will create chaos and mayhem and he'll use our imagination to do it. I'd imagined all sorts of scenarios that the boys would turn against me and that they would pick on me.

And that I'd be isolated and left on my own. It was the opposite. When my Christianity became known, the boys wanted to know all about it. And what the Bible was.

And what church was. Because most of them didn't have a clue. And I remember by the end of that training phase that this Psalm had come through loud and clear. And reminded me of God's goodness and God's grace.

And of the reality that when we're afraid, there's only one thing we can do. And that's trusting God. And that's what Psalm 56 tells us this evening. As far as we know, it comes from the time in David's life that we read a little bit about in 1 Samuel chapters 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Where things begin to unravel and unfold and implode in David's life. Why? Well, he hasn't done anything wrong. He's followed the bidding of Samuel.

[14:09] He was anointed in Bethlehem. He's been told. As far as we can tell, he now knows he will be the next king of Israel. Saul's begun to understand it. Jonathan, his son, the prince of Israel.

The prince of Wales, if you like, the equivalent. Instead of being the next king, he knows David's going to be the next king. And as these things, and as David gives loyal service to Israel, as he goes out day after day, week after week, campaigning and fighting against the Philistines and protecting the borders of the land, it seems the only thing that he gets for his loyal service is threat and danger and difficulty and imminent death.

It comes to the point where in 1 Samuel chapter 20 and verse 3, David is speaking to his great friend Jonathan. And he says to him, As my soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.

That's how David felt. That's how bad things had got between him and Saul. There is but a step. He felt there was just the turn of a page between life and death.

He was so threatened. He was so intimidated. And look at the psalm. When I am afraid, I will trust in you. Immediately, when Christians feel uncertain or afraid or struggling with life, the devil will come steaming in and try and plant his lies and his deceit in our hearts.

[15:40] Well, if you're a Christian, you wouldn't feel like that. If you were a believer, this wouldn't happen to you. Surely, if you were a child of God, you wouldn't be going through all this. Lies. Deceit.

And we take them to the word. And we see, well, David, the man after God's own heart, the psalmist of Israel, the king, their leader, a warrior and soldier, said, What time am I afraid?

I will trust in you. In God I will praise his word. In God I have put my trust. I will not fear what flesh can do to me. So let's just follow the psalm through briefly this evening.

First thing we find, obviously, here in the psalm is fear. Real fear. Verses 1 and 2 and verse 6. Reflects upon the reality of fear.

Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up. He knew there was but a step between life and death. He felt that imminent threat, that real pressing fear that came upon him through the enemies that were around him.

[16:49] They gather themselves in verse 6. They hide themselves. They mark my steps. They wait for my soul. Such as David's understanding that they're after him and that there's real pressure building.

We find him as we follow through his story back there in 1 Samuel, that he ends up, of all places, in Gath. That's significant because that's where Goliath was from.

And as soon as he lands there, a refugee on the run, on his own, unarmed, invulnerable, he's recognized. Why? Because the songs that the Israelites have been singing of him have made their way into the Philistine nation.

Saul has slain his thousands and David has tens of thousands. And here he is in Gath, one of the royal cities of the Philistine nation, where Goliath had grown up and had developed his skills and become the champion of the nation that David had put down in the valley of Elah with his sling and his stone.

And here he was, the champion of Israel, at their mercy in Gath. A little one that he felt afraid. He felt the hatred, the hostility. He felt their anger towards him.

[18:05] David knew fear. And no doubt the devil was at work trying to fan into flames in his mind doubt, uncertainty.

Why? Because, friends, this evening what the devil is fanatically committed to is dimming the spiritual light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The last thing he wants is committed, vibrant Christian witness in Lewis tomorrow. He doesn't want Christians infused through the preaching of the word.

He doesn't want Christians who are close to the Lord. He doesn't want Christians who are burning brightly in their hearts and in their minds explaining and sharing the good news of Christ.

And how does he attempt to stop that? By filling us with fear. By filling us with anxiety. By filling us with uncertainty. And so he wants us to substitute our reverent fear of God with an irreverent, unholy fear of man.

[19:14] And if we are consumed within ourselves, we'll switch from saying, What now, Lord? The cry of faith to, Why me, Lord?

And that's where we can be eaten alive. There's no answer to that question. Why me, Lord? Because that's a demanding request. That's someone who's shaking a fist to the heavens and saying, God, how dare you?

Why have I gone through this? Why have I experienced this? Give me an answer and explain this to me now. That's the kind of attitude the devil wants us to express to God. And that's why David says in these simple, incredible words, When I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

What do we have to balance off our uncertainties, our lack of understanding, our lack of foresight? We remember the character of our God. God who loves us and sent his Son into this world to seek and to save the lost.

A God who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him graciously give us all things? The promise of God to his people.

[20 : 26] So there's fear here. And we need to, and if we identify it, We can begin to root it out And readjust and regain the balance Of, yes, being afraid.

Fear is real. It's not a sin to be afraid. It's not a mark of being unsaved. To know fear. But when we're afraid like David, We turn to God.

We don't turn from God. And that's the second thing we find in this psalm. As well as there being fear, The second thing that emerges from these verses is trust.

In God I will praise his word. In God I have put my trust. I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. And then they repeat it again in verses 10 and 11. And God will I praise his word.

In the Lord will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust. What a wonderful declaration that really is.

[21 : 29] You'll perhaps know the famous story of John Knox, The great reformer and leader of the church in Scotland At the time of reformation. As he lay on his deathbed, He asked that John chapter 17 be read to him.

It brought him great comfort. And then he said these words, This is where I cast my first anchor. This is where I cast my first anchor.

As he heard again the words of John 17, The high priestly prayer of Christ Being offered for his disciples and for his church The night he was betrayed, It brought John Knox to the throne of grace In repentance and faith.

And the comfort he had from hearing that As he knew his life was ebbing away Led him to utter these words, This is where I first cast my anchor.

Trust. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word. In God I have put my trust.

[22:43] I will not fear what flesh can do to me. You see, as we express and develop our trust, It has an expulsive force about it. And it expels fear.

And it expels the lies of the devil. And it expels our worldliness. It expels a sense in our minds and in our hearts Of being consumed with ourselves. Or if you like, I think it chokes to death a humanism.

And it utterly destroys an atheism. Or a pluralism. And it banishes these things. And within there's, In place of them, A wonderful, simple trust grows.

In God I have put my trust. David's decision is made. Yes, fear has come his way. And we should remember, He's lost his position in the royal court And in the armies of Israel.

He's lost his wife. He's had to escape out of the window. And she's put a dummy in the bed To fool the guards of Saul. He's lost Samuel, His great spiritual mentor.

[23:49] He's lost his right-hand man in Jonathan. And then in Gath, As he feigns madness, He even loses his self-respect. And it's all happened so quickly. As he has faithfully served Israel.

As he has honoured Saul, The king. And as he had followed, Followed Samuel's teaching And the Lord's bidding. It seems everything's just unfolded And fallen apart around him. But he has said, In God I have put my trust.

I will not fear what flesh can do to me. See, this is his bearing. He's taking a bearing. He's looking up. And we lose our bearings If we forget to look up.

And when distress comes And pressure and sadness, Bereavement, unemployment, ill health, When things come into our experience, The first thing we can do Is look down and look in.

And be consumed with what's happening to us. The antidote is to look up. In God I will praise his word. In God I have put my trust.

[24:53] As we look at these four verses, Verses 3 and 4 and 10 and 11, They're quite repetitive. And that's interesting Because we find in there The little word in.

Six times. Six times. In God have I put my trust. In God will I praise his word. In the Lord will I praise his word.

Again and again. David expels the fear That's threatening to overwhelm him. And expels the lies of the devil. And he expels his own Limited understanding and insight.

And he takes what's going on to him To God. And he takes it to him in trust. Wonderful psalms such as Psalm 8 Reflect this very process.

What is man that you are mindful of him? David would say As we've sung already this evening, I love the Lord Because my voice and prayer Seeded here.

[25:50] I while I live will call on him Who bowed to me his ear. That's trust. Closeness. Communion.

Fellowship. That Christian friends Is how we maintain our witness. That's how we develop And nourish our spirituality. By having a trust that we exercise.

It's the walk of faith. And we know what the Christian life is. It's a moment in time Where we become Christians By asking the Lord Jesus into our hearts. That's a step.

But that step becomes a walk. And the walk becomes a lifestyle. And that's what the world sees. People around us in our communities Who don't come to church.

What do they see? They see us. When we go home. And when we interact with them. And when we're in the shop. And we're in the community. We're out in the street. And we're engaging.

[26:49] And sharing with people. They see us. People who don't read the Bible Read the Christians lives. So important friends That we do What we can As we can By maintaining A vibrant Living trust In our Lord and Saviour.

And how does it all begin? Romans chapter 10 Tells us If you confess with your mouth That Jesus is Lord And believe in your heart God raised him from the dead You Will Be Saved That is a wonderful Gospel promise This evening That is as real And sincere Here in Tolstice As it is Across the world You Will Be Saved And it was as a child of God David dealt with this unfolding Crisis A nightmare around him One songwriter Put it this way He put it in a really Powerful way Let me share with you These words Fear knocked At the door of my heart Faith answered There was no one there Fear knocked At the door of my heart Faith answered There was no one there Faith expelled That fear And said

You have no place here Because this heart Is full of faith And that's what we find Here in these words In God Will I praise his word In the Lord I will praise his word And as we see that little word In repeating six times We also find the stress On word We have word there In God I will praise his word In the Lord I will praise his word Three times We have it repeated To emphasize to us The centrality Of the word Of God For the word Brings us To the God And that's why we In our pulpits Have the Bible Front and centre It's why we give The lion's share Of our time In our worship services Over to the preaching Of the word For it is by the word That we receive grace And our hearts Are nourished And our souls Ignite Into our sense of love For the Lord Jesus Christ And we expand In our understanding We deepen our faith As we receive The grace that Christ Has for us

Which is poured Into our hearts Through the preaching Of the word In God will I praise His word In the Lord Will I praise his word What we can say About any congregation Tonight Is that a congregation Full of trust And full of hope Will be a congregation That is based upon The word And a congregation That is walking With the God Of the word And the consequence Of that Will be courage And commitment When I am afraid I will trust In thee I will not fear What flesh Can do to me See the contrast The fear is gone The strength upon This communion With God In God Is fed And nourished By the word Of God And through that We live For God And so there's Fear There's trust There's thirdly This in verses Seven and eight

And nine There's prayer There's lovely Wonderful Clear prayer Shall they escape By iniquity In thine anger Cast down The people O God Thou tellest My wanderings Put thou my tears Into thy bottle Are they not In thy book When I cry Unto thee Then shall My enemies Turn back This I know For God Is for me There's prayer Clear Consistent Humble Not demanding Not questioning But trusting Look at these words In verse eight What a picture They paint for us You know My wanderings Thou tellest My wanderings It's a phrase That David While he was on the run A refugee Fleeing for his life From Saul Leaving behind Jonathan And Samuel And his family And his place In the armies Of Israel Everything's lost To him Almost overnight And yet he knows That the Lord knows Thou tellest

My wanderings Friends Tonight If you're going Through a difficult Time If you're experiencing Pressure And stress And hardship God Knows Again To contrast This with the devil The devil Will whisper And lie And deceive And trip And try to Drag us into A cul-de-sac Of despair Saying you wouldn't Be feeling like this If you were a Christian You wouldn't know You wouldn't Experience this In your life If you were a Christian And if you were one of these So-called children Of God Then how could this Possibly be Unfolding in your life And experience And why would you feel this And the lies And the deceit That come Listen to the word The scripture This is why the word Is so important To us friends Thou tellest My wanderings God knows Don't let the devil Tell you otherwise God knows Put thou my tears Into thy bottle

Are they not In thy book And it's a wonderful Tender Close Image here Where God Is collecting The tears Being shed By one of his Children He's collecting Them Are they not In thy book God knows God is not A distant Absentee Landlord What did Jesus Say as he Prepared To go back To heaven Before his Ascension What was the last Thing he said To the disciples Recorded for us In the scriptures We call it The great commission In there As well as the Instruction To go into All the world And teach All things I have commanded you Baptizing In the name Of the Father The Son And the Holy Spirit Comes the precious Promise And Io I Am with you Always To the end Of the age Prayer Friends

God's children Do not shed Tears in vain God Knows Is God Less able To help Than the devil Is to harm No Paul the great Apostle And leader Of the church When he arrived In that ancient Great city Of Corinth Knew what it Was to be Afraid He said He arrived There in Weakness And fear And much Trembling And then In the second Letter He said Outside Were conflicts Inside Were fears Nevertheless God who Comforts the Downcast Comforted us That missionary Team knew What it was To be Intimidated Outnumbered Afraid Persecuted Beat Beat Down And abused And isolated But they Also knew The comfort Of God Because God Was with Them And it's The same For us This evening Because what God is to One saint He is to Every saint Be it in David's time

Paul's time Or our time What God is to One saint He is to Every saint And this is Where we're Going to Close this Evening This wonderful Prayer That we see In David So we have A reality Of fear Which is Dispelled By trust Which then Is expressed In prayer And through That prayer We have this Acknowledgement Of service Verses 12 And 13 Thy vows Are upon me O God I will render Praises unto Thee There is no Body on earth That has Licence to sing As much as The church Of Christ We should be Heard in our Singing In our Praising As much as We should be Seen in our Witnessing And in our Walking Our worship And our Witness Testify To the reality Of who we Know in our Hearts Friends The living God And the Son of The Lord Jesus Christ And then there's This great Acknowledgement In the Closing verse

Thou hast Delivered my Soul from Death Won't thou Not deliver My feet From falling That I may Walk before God In the Light of The living How a Wonderful phrase That is That can be Rendered at The end of The psalm There That I may Walk before You In the Light of Life The psalm The psalm Deaths To turning Bush timing To noi Thinks of urrection Doing.

[35:42] to herself. How does a Christian man and woman best conduct themselves tomorrow morning? Going to work or whatever it is that's in front of us on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday to come.

Walk before God. That's our calling, Christian friends. Yes, it's a responsibility but it's also a great privilege because we do not walk that path alone.

Christ says to us to take up our cross daily and follow him. He has set our path. He doesn't say, I'll see you at the top of the hill.

Catch up when you can. He says, walk with me. Follow me. Speak of me. Share with those around me something of what you know.

That's what it is to walk before God in the light of the living. And that is the great mission of the Church of Christ on earth. We heard a lot this past week at the General Assembly in Edinburgh of our mission, of our vision.

Our vision to develop healthy gospel churches. In every community in Scotland, well that's beyond us. We're such a tiny denomination, aren't we? Yes, we are. But the God we love, the gospel we know, and the grace we've experienced is not tiny.

And so we give thanks to God that we have this vision that we're part of something bigger than what we are as a body here on this island. But, my goodness, what good comes from a church that is full of trust and full of prayer and has a servant heart willing to walk the path of life, giving glory to God.

It's a wonderful phrase in the New Testament that speaks of pleasing God. Again, in the Corinthian letters, I can't remember which, chapter, the second letter, chapter six, I think. We make it our aim to please Him.

How do we please God? How do any of us please the living God? We walk before Him in the light of the living, giving thanks for the salvation we know and sharing something of that salvation with those around us and asking them if they too would like to know the Christ that we know and telling them how that happens.

By repentance and faith. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

[38:17] What a message. What a saviour. What a hope for all of us going into this week ahead. Yes, there's uncertainty and there may well be dark times ahead and distress and anxiety and hardship and fear.

When we're afraid, let us trust. Trust in the living God. Let us feed our souls on His word that will expel the fear and drive us to trust and then express our trust through prayer and then as servants of the living God, conscious that He knows our wanderings, remembering that He gathers up our tears that has served Him and walked before Him in the light of the living doing all that we can to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around us and may He bless you here in Tolstair as you do just that, making known the good news of the gospel.

Let's pray for a moment together. Gracious Lord, undertake for us this evening. We thank You that we can spend this hour together. We thank You that we can come aside from other things on this day and study together the good news, the deep things of God, the doctrines of grace.

Lord, at times we wonder how can we possibly please You and we see our answer to walk before You, reliant on the grace that is ours through Christ.

Bless this message, Lord, to our hearts. Be with us when times of fear come. Grant us, Lord, the insight and understanding to respond accordingly, not with uncertainty, but with trust, with prayer and with service.

[40:15] In this we ask for Jesus' sake. Amen. We'll turn to sing in closing this evening from Psalm 89 at verse 15 and we'll sing to verse 18.

Psalm 89 and we'll sing from verse 15 to verse 18. O greatly blessed the people are, the joyful sound that know and brightness of Thy face, O Lord, they ever on shall go.

Psalm 89 from verse 15 to 18 to the praise of God. O great thee blessed the people are the joyful sign that know in brightness of life is, O Lord, the ever on shall go.

In Thy name shall all the day rejoice exceedingly, be, and in Thy righteousness shall be exalted be on high.

Because the glory of their strength death death only stand in Thee, and in Thy favor shall our heart and power exalted me.

[42:34] be. Our God is our heavy fame santee to us to us safety bring.

The Holy One One of Israel is the Almighty King.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. Amen.