5.2.23 pm

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Date: 05 February 2023

Preacher: Reverend David MacLeod

[0:00] Good evening and a warm welcome to the service this evening. We're going to begin this time of worship by singing to God's praise in Psalm 130.

Psalm 130 and it's the last two stanzas. I'll read the last two stanzas in English and then we'll remain seated to sing the last two stanzas of Psalm 130 in Gaelic.

So we sang the first part in the morning and from verse 6b through to 8 I say more than they that do wait watch the morning light to see let Israel hope in the Lord for with them mercy see and plenteous redemption is ever found with him and from all his iniquities he Israel shall redeem.

These two verses of Psalm 130 and after that Donald's going to lead us in prayer in Gaelic please. the end knell Thank you.

Thank you.

[2:02] Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

[6:32] Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you.

for seeds■ softs, Service to the solutions, and to the level of the atmosphere that have made it up 1 hour, and again, white, very beautiful...

because if your time was our Apparently wown't let people cry How will theyumble You will cry You will never escape You will never leave You will beaky The same fad as usual as not for g ranked than women.

In the ugly progression when the first street returned dernière opportunity from the parent to the watch, And our replied to E-NAR, For example, Mohammed argument is even former dies of normal." And today I am very welcome to stirring, but I want to brotherhood and give a better to bring him to an latest

Some change of realmente music. You will never dance at this part. Some are with any such fun and fame. But if it has to go to the other kids, then it would be because of the filth have to come to the house.

It would have to grow up at that moment and to look back to the children and gave to them. It's beautiful, but eyes alone still walked down ason project.

I was learning how I would do something. In the life of it, I would love to have the same tired.

your life, with the samewaiting system And they had a state all along together. He changed the city **EXECUTE** into the city.

[13:04] He was Rama. He's had different people in his way. He hardly ever had their own hair.

He's waiting for lives. I mean, in any way, I jogo theyez of Hanukov Every that's not so complicated you can dub and talk.

If you understand what it is, it doesn't matter unless you die. You will not improve. If you see what is worse you are feeling it is leastoup D!?

Amen. Amen.

We'll sing again to God's praise. Mission Praise 757. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll.

[14:57] What heaven I love, you have taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though season should pop, and their triumph should come, that this blessed I should have strong throne, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.

It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin, my sin, O the bliss of his glorious thought, my sin, not in part, but the whole.

[16:32] It is well with my soul. It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul. For me, it is well with my soul.

It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul. It is well with my soul.

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ as to live, if Jordan above we shall roll.

No one shall be mine, no one shall be mine, no one shall be mine, born in death, not in life.

You will whisper your peace to my soul. It is well with my soul. It is well with my soul.

[17:41] It is well, it is well with my soul. But Lord, it's for you, for your coming we wait.

The sky, not the great, is our goal. O triumph of the angel, the praise of the Lord.

Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul. It is well with my soul.

It is well, it is well with my soul. I think that's one of these hymns, we need to have a plan, writing about the chorus.

But, it's good to sing praise to God. We're going to read now from Genesis chapter 18. Genesis chapter 18.

[19:07] Genesis chapter 18. And we'll read the whole of this chapter.

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.

When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them, and bowed low to the ground. He said, If I have found favour in your eyes, my Lord, do not pass your servant by.

Let a little water be brought, and then you may wash, you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me go and get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way, now that you have come to your servant.

Very well, they answered, do as you say. So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. Quick, he said, get three sears of fine flour and knead it, and bake some bread. Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice tender calf, and gave it to a servant who hurried to prepare it.

[20:14] He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near by them under a tree. Where is your wife Sarah?

They asked them. There in the tent, he said. Then the Lord said, I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son. Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, after I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?

Then the Lord said to Abraham, Why did Sarah laugh and say, will I really have a child now that I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, I did not laugh. But he said, Yes, you did laugh. When the men got up to leave, they looked down towards Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

[21:21] Then the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on the earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him so that he will direct his children and his household after him, to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

Then the Lord said, The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin is so grievous, that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me.

If not, I will know. The men turned away and went towards Sodom. But Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham approached them and said, Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike.

Far be it from you. Will not the judge of all the earth do right? The Lord said, If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

[22:35] Then Abraham spoke up again. Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty?

Will you destroy the whole city because of five people? If I find forty-five there, he said, I will not destroy it. Once again he spoke to him, What if only forty are found there?

He said, For the sake of forty, I will not do it. Then he said, May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there? He answered, I will not do it if I find thirty there.

Abraham said, Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there? He said, For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it. Then he said, May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more.

What if only ten can be found there? He answered, For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it. When the Lord had finished speaking with Abraham, he left and Abraham returned home.

[23:36] Amen. And may God bless that reading of his word to us. We'll sing again now to God's praise. Mission Praise 50. Mission Praise 50, a prayer really as we come back to the word of God.

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Come bow before Him now, the Holy One is here. Come bow before Him now, the Holy One is here. With reverence and fear. Come bow before Him now, the Holy One is here.

In Him no sin is for no sin, the Holy One is here. Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here. Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

Come bow before him now With reverence and fear In him no sin is found We stand on holy ground Be still for the presence of the Lord The Holy One is here Be still for the glory of the Lord Is shining on our ground He burns with holy fire With slender he is God How awesome is the sight

Our radiant King of light Be still for the glory of the Lord Is shining all around Be still for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place He comes to cleanse and heal To minister his grace No work too hard No work too hard for him In faith received from him Be still for the power of the Lord Is moving in this place Let's pray as we turn back to God's word

Our Heavenly Father we thank you once more For the privilege of gathering around your word For giving us the desire To be in your presence And to listen to your voice And we ask Lord That you would be close to us Now we pray As we have sang That you would cleanse us from our sin That you would heal us In our hearts That you would help us Lord In all that we struggle with in this world Minister your grace to us We pray Just as Abraham cried out Seeking the Lord's favour We would do so this evening Asking Lord that you would bless us That you would show us your grace And help us to receive From you all That you have For us in your word So be amongst us Lord We pray We pray for all the congregations Around us as well Every place that The word of God is open That Christ crucified us preached We ask Lord

That you would be ministering In the congregations we're connected with Lord That you would be That you would be at work And we pray for the The big YF as well As the young ones Head through to Stornoway We pray that you would give them Safety and travel And Lord That you would speak into their hearts That each one of them Would look in faith to Jesus And Lord That they would know The salvation And the satisfaction That there is Found in no other place So hear our prayers And help us Lord We ask in Jesus name Amen Genesis chapter 18 If you could have that In front of you That would be helpful Really What we're doing tonight Is we are Continuing from where We left off Last time We Were in Genesis 18 Two weeks ago I think it was And we noted The first point In the passage As we look through The verses

The first thing we see In the passage Is the Lord appears To Abraham And that's verses 1 and 2 And it's just a normal day In the heat of the day At the entrance to the tent Where Abraham Routinely would have sat The Lord appeared To Abraham And it's a reminder To us That the Lord He He draws near to us Each day In the Normal routines In the ordinary places Where to live With that Sense of expectation That God Draws near to us And so we're To be ready To worship him As we see Abraham Worshipping And showing Reverence to The Lord The Lord appeared To Abraham And the Lord Appears to us And we thank him For that The second thing Is the Lord Supped with Abraham And that's Verses 3 To verse 8 And we see That as The Lord Draws near to Abraham

Abraham He seeks The grace He seeks The favour Of the Lord He asks That the Lord Would not pass him by That this wouldn't be A fleeting encounter But the Lord Would stay with him Would sup with him Would abide with him And so we have This picture In the verses Of Abraham Enjoying close fellowship With the Lord That nearness That intimacy That he was able To enjoy In this section And again The application Is straightforward That's what we're To pursue If we're Christians To be a Christian Is not simply To be thankful For the fact That we are saved From sin That we have security When we die But to be a Christian Is to be one Who is Who is saved Into a relationship With God Where we find True satisfaction And joy In being Close with

The Lord And so That's as far As we got Two weeks ago The Lord appeared To Abraham The Lord supped With Abraham And we have This amazing scene God himself Ministering To Abraham Drawing near To Abraham And Abraham Waiting Upon the Lord But we might wonder As Abraham May have wondered What business Did the Lord Have with Abraham What was the mission What was it That the Lord Came to do On this occasion And we might not Have a crystal clear Answer to that There's various things I think we can see In the passage In part This was a visit To encourage Abraham To believe And to keep On keeping on In part It was

A visit Whereby The Lord Reveals to Abraham What he was Soon to do And we'll come to that In the course Of our time But also What we see here And we see it In the next Few verses From verse 9 onwards The Lord The Lord Has business To do With Sarah Abraham's wife So the third point Is the Lord Challenges Sarah's Unbelief And we pick that up At verse 9 The Lord says To Abraham Where is your wife Sarah And I think There's echoes here Of the Garden of Eden We think right back To the beginning As we did This morning also Remember In the Garden of Eden Where When sin comes in We see The Lord Passing through The Garden And calling out To Adam and Eve Where are you?

And here The Lord And those Who visit Abraham here They They ask him Where is your wife? Where is Sarah? And the Lord Is not asking Because He doesn't know Where Sarah is Because God is omniscient He knows everything He sees everything But there's an issue That has to be addressed In the heart of Sarah And so the Lord Wants to To speak Directly With Sarah So Abraham Responds to this question In verse 9 There in the tent He said Then the Lord Said Verse 10 I will surely Return to you About this time Next year And Sarah Your wife Will have a son Now at this point The Lord Is speaking Directly to Abraham And this Actually Is not news To Abraham

He already Knows this Because if you Glance back To Genesis Chapter 17 The previous chapter In verse 21 Abraham Has already been Told That this time Next year Sarah will have A son But the strange Thing is Abraham Although he's Been told This by the Lord Previously He doesn't Seem to have Shared this With Sarah He hasn't Taken this Amazing news And passed It on to Her And it's a Strange thing For us to Try and Compute Why would Abraham Have been Told This amazing News That this Time next Year They'll have A son And he Holds on To it Doesn't Pass it On And we Don't have We don't Have the Answer to That question But I Think the Way we're Wired we Tend to Look into Something like This and Say Abraham Why did

You not Why did You not Speak Why did You not Share the Good news But then as We think About that Surely we We find that We're looking In the mirror Because we Have good News for Christians We have Heard good News we Have believed The good News about Jesus we Have trusted In him we Have been Saved but That good News that We have Been given We're to Share with Those around Us and Just as Abraham on This occasion Seems to Have been Reluctant to Share the Good news Is it not True that You and I often Are guilty Of the Charge Of being Reluctant to Share the Good news About Jesus But it Seems the Lord wanted Sarah to Know the Good news And the Lord wanted Sarah to Know the Good news Now So let's Read on At verse 10 Now Sarah

Was listening At the Entrance to The tent Which was Behind him Abraham and Sarah were Already old And well Advanced in Years and Sarah was Past the Age of Child Bearing So Sarah Laughs to Herself as She thought After I am Worn out and My master is Old well I Now have This pleasure Then the Lord said to Abraham why Did Sarah Laugh and Say well I Really have a Child now That I am Old is Anything too Hard for The Lord I will Return to You at The appointed Time next Year and Sarah will Have a Son Sarah was Afraid so She lied And said I Did not Laugh but He said yes You did Laugh So we've Got this Kind of Awkward Situation Here Sarah Hears God's Promise She overhears God's Promise as The Lord is Speaking Directly with Her husband And when She hears It She laughs

And it Wasn't a Laugh of Joyful Faith It was a Laugh That expressed How Ridiculous And how Unlikely This This Promise Seemed to Be And again We're looking In And we Are Wired to Be critical Of others When we Look In on Them But let's Let's not Be hard On Sarah As we Think about Her situation This is a Woman who Has for Decades Descately Wanted To have A son For so Long She has Desired To have A son Maybe She has Been so Disappointed So many Times She almost She just Won't let Herself Believe A bit Like the Disciples Remember In Luke 24 When Jesus Appears The Resurrected Jesus Appears But they

Did not Believe Because of Joy and Amazement And yet Jesus Took the Disciples From Not believing The Resurrection To Believing The Resurrection And the Lord Here Wants to Take Sarah From Not Believing In His Word And His Promise To Believing To Sarah The News Of The Son This Time Next Year It Just Seemed Too Good To Be Believable But The Great Thing Was She Could Believe She May Have Been Disappointed For Decades But She Could Believe This Because God Spoke It And She Should Believe It And She Must Believe It Because It's The Word Of God And The Application Here For Us Is Again Straight Forward We Are Called

To Believe The Word Of God John 6 Verses 28 To 29 Jesus Is Asked The Question What Must We Do To Do The Work God Requires Jesus Answered The Work Of God Is This To Believe In The One He Has Sent That's What We're Called To Do So We Can Do Believe Acts 16 Remember The Philippian Jailer He Asks The Question Sirs What Must I Do To Be Saved And The Answer Comes Back Believe In The Lord Jesus And You Will Be Saved Saved Eternally Saved Sin Washed Away Eternity Secured Now

These Are Promises That Are So Clear In God's Word And It Just When We When We Actually Stop And We Chew Them Over They Just Seem Too Good To Be True In The Same Way That Sarah She Hears This Promise It Just To Elderly Sarah It Seemed Too Good To Be True But What God Promises Is Always True We Just Have To Believe Are You Believing Tonight Your Sin Can Be For For For For For For For For Death Sting Can Be Removed Hell Can Be Escaped Heaven Can Be Ours If We Believe Think About The Words That We That We Sang Just A Minute Ago My Sin Oh The Bliss Of This Glorious Thought My

Sin Not In Part But The Whole Is Nailed To The Cross And I Bear It No More Praise The Lord Praise The Lord O My Soul It Is Well With My Soul That's The Promise Of God To Us If We Believe And If There's Someone Here Tonight Who Doesn't Believe And The Same Lord Who Read Of In Genesis 18 Comes To Us Through His Word Tonight And Challenges Us Through His Word Tonight And Calls Us To Faith Our Calling The Pleading Of The Lord With Us Through These Verses Is To

Believe To Believe To Believe To Believe These Things That Luke Was Telling Us About This Morning That The Life The Sufferings The Death The Resurrection Of Jesus If We Believe These Things Then We Will Be Saved So The Lord He Challenges Sarah's Unbelief Point Number Four The Lord Warns Abraham Of Judgment To Come And There's A Change In Tone From Verse 16 Through To Verse 21 So Let's Just Read These Verses When The Men Got Up To Leave They Looked Down Towards Sodom And Abraham Walked Along With Them To See Them On Their Way Then The Lord Said Shall I Hide From Abraham What I Am About To Do Abraham Will Surely Become A Great And Powerful Nation And All Nations On

Earth Will Be Blessed Through Him For I Have Chosen Him So That He Will Direct His Children And His Household After Him To Keep The Way Of The Lord By Doing What Is Right And Just So That The Lord Will Bring About For Abraham What He Has Promised Him Then The Lord Said The Outcry Against Sodom And Gomorrah Is So Great And Their Sin Is So Grievous That I Will Go Down And See If What They Have Done Is As Bad As The Outcry That Has Reached Me If Not I Will Know And In This Section This Section Here The Camera It Shifts From Being Focused In Abraham To For A Moment Scanning Over To The City Of Sodom And Remember In Sodom Is Lot Abraham's Nephew And Lot's Family They Are In Sodom And

They Are In Danger Because Judgment Has Come And That Was God's Word To Abraham And We Might Ask The Question Why Why Does The Lord Share This Word With Abraham And Part Of The Answer Is Because Abraham Is A Friend Of God I Think There's A Connection Here With John 15 Remember When Jesus Is Speaking To His Disciples Jesus Says To Them In John 15 And Verse 15 I No Longer Call You Servants Because A Servant Does Not Know His Master's Business Instead I Have Called You Friends For Everything That I Learned From My Father I Have Made Known To You You Did Not Choose Me But I Chose You And Appointed You To Go And Bear Fruit Fruit That Will Last Then The Father Will Give You Whatever You Ask In My Name And Abraham Here Is One Who Has Been Chosen

By God He's A Friend Of God And The Lord Is Revealing To Abraham His Business The Lord Is Telling Abraham This Is What I'm About To Do And The Lord Is Giving Abraham An Opportunity To Be Part Of God's Mission To Save Lot And To Save That Place From The Judgment That Seems To Be Coming Their Way Abraham Has He Has The Opportunity Through This To Warn People In Sodom Of The Danger They're In And As We Look At This Section Here We Have Pointers Forward To Jesus Who Spoke More Of Hell And Judgment Than

Jesus Judgment Is Not A Truth That Is Locked Into The Old Testament And Shouted Out By Old Testament Prophets Jesus Spoke More About Judgment And The Reality Of Hell Than Anyone Ever Did And Why Did He Do That He Did That To Warn People So That They Would Turn From Their Sin And They Would Turn To Him And Be Saved You Know It's A Wonderful Thing To Have A Vision Of Heaven We Need To Have A Vision Of Heaven And That's Been Of Great Comfort To Us Even Over The Past Few Weeks It's Great To Be Able To See Heaven To Know Where Those Who Have Died In The Lord Where They Have Gone But As Joe Bernard Said Here A Few Months

Back We Need Also To Have A Vision Of Hell We Need To To Grasp The Reality Of What Abraham Was Being Shown Here We Need To Have A Clear Vision Of The Certainty Of Coming Judgment Because Just As Abraham Had Those Whom He Loved And Saw Them Family We Have Family And We Have Friends We Have Loved Ones Who Are Heading At Speed In The Direction Of Hell And They And We Need To Be Warned Of What God The Just Judge Will Do Sin Was Grievous To God That's Clear In Verse 20 And Still Sin Is Grievous To God God's Standards Don't Change He

Is Grieved By Our Sin And If We Were To Take A Glance Into What Was Going On In Sodom Much Of What We Saw Going On In Sodom In That Day We Are Seeing Going On In Scotland In This Day Sin Hil blindness Be It then we must pay the price for that sin.

And hell is the place where that happens, where judgment falls. So if we love people, we will warn them of the truth that there is judgment to come for those who are outside of Christ.

Abraham has shown this as the Lord gives him the warning of judgment to come. And we have actually been given a much clearer picture of that through the words of Jesus.

So clearly and consistently in the Gospels. The Lord warned Abraham of judgment to come. And the final thing that we see here is that the Lord listens to Abraham's prayer.

[49:11] Verse 22. The men turned away and went towards Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.

And that's a term that speaks to us about prayer. We're given a picture here of prayer. The Lord has revealed this solemn truth to Abraham about judgment in order that Abraham will reach out to him and pray.

And so Abraham, he doesn't go off in the direction of Sodom. He stands before the Lord. And then we're allowed to listen in to this prayer of Abraham.

And you see it in verses 23 down to verse 33. Abraham approaches him and said, will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

What if there are 50 righteous people in this city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50 righteous people? And then there's this process with Abraham.

[50:29] He goes from 50 down to 45 down to 40. And there's a pleading on the part of Abraham for the people in Sodom.

We see the heart of Abraham here. We see the love that he had for those who were lost as he pleads with the Lord for their salvation.

And I think that's perhaps a challenge to us. Do we have anything of that? Do we plead with the Lord for those who are lost?

It's a real instructive word there. Abraham, he doesn't charge off to save Sodom. He can't.

But he knows the Lord can. And so he pleads for the people. So we see the love that Abraham had for the lost.

[51:34] But we also see the hopelessness of the situation. It's difficult to read because we know how this ends. Abraham, he's negotiating with the Lord on the basis of righteousness, on the basis of how many righteous people there are in Sodom.

And what we learn as we fast forward to the end of this story is that there weren't 50 righteous people in Sodom. There weren't 45. There weren't 40.

There weren't 30. There weren't 20. There weren't 10. There wasn't even one righteous person in Sodom. And Sodom falls.

And it's the same here today. There is not one righteous person in this place today on the basis of who we are.

Romans 3.10 makes that very clear. There is not, there is no one righteous, says the Apostle Paul. not even one.

[52:49] So the question for us as we finish is, how can we be spared judgment? How can we be saved?

And the answer is, not on account of our righteousness, but on account of Jesus' righteousness. And we'll sing in just a few minutes, my hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

See, the place that we're taken to as we see the, the bleakness of the tale of Sodom is a place where we realize how we can't save ourselves.

We have no hope because of who we are. We are all sinners. And when we see that, we cry out and we say, where is, where is their hope?

Where is their salvation? How can I be made righteous? And the answer is Jesus. So all the way through Genesis, we are being pointed forward to the end of the story of salvation and it's Jesus.

[54:09] So let's be encouraged this evening to look in faith to Jesus and let's be encouraged to, to point others to Jesus.

You know, I think it's, it's timely that we should be taken at this point in time to this particular point. This wasn't my engineering.

But next Sunday, there's this focus on evangelism. And what is evangelism? Evangelism is, is warning people about judgment and telling people about Jesus.

It's about being witnesses for Jesus. And as we speak to people about Jesus, we're praying that they will see their need and they will come to him.

and this is God's work. It's the work of the Holy Spirit. But it's a work that he called Abraham to be part of.

[55:17] It's a work that he called these 11 trembling, often shambolic disciples to be part of. and it's a work that he calls us to be part of today.

We can pray for people, we can plead for people as we stand before the Lord and we can reach out to people and be witnesses for Jesus, telling people these things about the life, the sufferings, the death, the resurrection of Jesus in the hope and prayer that they, that we will look to him and be saved.

So may God give us the courage to do so. We're going to sing to finish Mission Praise 473.

If the young ones have to scoot just now. No? Okay. We can sing this hymn then just now. 473. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

[56:53] No merit of my own I claim, but fully just in Jesus' name.

On Christ's solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sound.

When we in this earthly race I rest on his unchanging grace In every wild and stormy hill my anchor my anchor holds and will not fail On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.

No we dam We are impacted!

These