KIDS FRIENDLY PSALMS

Rev Silvia Purdie has crafted these wonderful ‘Kids Friendly’ Psalms to open up the wealth in the Psalms in ways that kids (and adults!) can relate to in fresh ways. They are designed especially for use in all age worship or children’s ministry groups. They could be used as a call to worship, read by a child, or alternate lines by a child and an adult, or responsively with the congregation.

Says Silvia: "The book of Psalms is the greatest worship and prayer resource we have. Unfortunately Psalms can be hard to use with children ... they jump from one emotion to another, they rave on about enemies and threatening violence, they are often too long or too short and we don’t know if we’re allowed to just use the bits we like and ignore the bits we don’t. Traditional translations are full of big words and experiences that kids struggle with ... and so we tend to use other forms of poetry and prayer with kids and forget about the Psalms. Which is a tragedy!!

These are not translations of the Biblical Psalm, but a response to it. They seek to honour the meaning and context of the Psalm and to enable our congregations, including the children, to bring to God our own emotions and experience. Psalms are 3,000-year-old treasures, and bringing them alive again today will, I hope, deepen our participation in the life of God, in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. I hope you find them helpful.”

Email Silvia about her work and she’ll happily send you more Psalms, reworked in different ways.
Psalm 3: The Shield around me
(written by Silvia Purdie)

I’m sick of hearing it!
I get it at school and at home and on TV and on the internet,
people saying “Don’t be stupid!
You’re dumb to believe in God!”

I know they are wrong
I know that you are real, God!
You are strong and solid under my feet
You fill my heart up to the top with love
You hear my voice and answer me
When I feel down, you lift up my head
When I am tired, I curl up and rest
safe in you.

Hey, world! I’m not afraid of you!
Say what you like, think what you like -
I know who I am
I belong to Jesus Christ
I belong to the Father of all
I belong to the great Spirit
my blessing, my shield, my glory!
Psalm 8: Out of the mouths of babes
(written by Silvia Purdie)

God, our living God,
you are amazing!
You are higher than I can look,
You are wider than I can see.
But I can hear you –
Listen!
We can hear you in the laughter of a little child,
We can hear you in the babbling of a baby.
You don’t need words to tell us of your power.

Why do you need us at all?
We are so small, and the world is so big,
the stars are so many and space is so enormous.
God, our living God,
you are amazing!
You made everything.
Why do I matter?

But we do matter!
God cares for us most of all,
and through us God cares for all the world.
You put everything into our care,
all the animals, all the birds, all the fish,
everything that creeps or flies or runs or swims,
even the land and the air and the sea.
It is all ours to look after.
God, our living God,
you are amazing!
Psalm 11: The XBox Psalm
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Bang! Bang!
Lights flash in the dark.
They are shooting at me again!
I duck down behind the rubble
but shots come from behind me -
Bang-bang-bang!
I’m not safe here
and I’m out of ammo.
Frantically I look around -
there must be somewhere to hide!
There must be someone to cover me
while I make a dash for it!

All good fun in an X-Box game
but life gets like this sometimes.
When it does, you’d better know who has got your back!
And sorry, people might do their best
to protect and care for you, but they will fail.

Strong people, strong in a deep solid useful way,
know that no matter what
they are safe inside,
because the battle for their life
has long ago been won!
Strong, safe people know that God is their refuge
so they can be a refuge for others.
And there, as we care for one another
we see the face of God
and know the power of love.
Psalm 18 Part B): The Volcano Psalm  verses 7-15, 46
(written by Silvia Purdie)

The mountain shook
the rock cracks open with a roar
smoke blasts out
filling the sky with black
and look! – fire is shooting up, exploding out
rocks on fire flying through the air
as the ground rumbles
stones fall from cloud
ash drifts over everything.
When night comes the glow can be seen from far away
When day comes all is grey.

We like the earth to keep still
and our God to be predictable
but sometimes things erupt
the foundations of the earth
burst open to be seen, on the move,
exploding with God’s power!
Ours is not a pet god
He has a molten core.
His passion blasts into our lives
if we dare!

The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock –
even if the rock is on fire!? 
Psalm 20: God bless you!
(written by Silvia Purdie)

May God bless you and keep you.
When you cry for help
God will answer.
When you are in trouble
God will be there.
When you are lost
God will find you.
When you are afraid
God will support you.

May God bless you and keep you.
In the plans you make,
in all that you hope for,
in the deep desires of your heart,
God is alive and at work.
When you ask for help for other people
God works through you.
When you do great things
God cheers you on
and all God’s people
shout for joy!

May God bless you and keep you.
Some people rely on guns and fast cars
but we trust in God.
Everything else will crash to the ground
but we will stand tall.
Be strong in the Lord,
Be proud of our God.
God is proud of you!
May God bless you and keep you.
Psalm 27: Take courage, my heart!
(written by Silvia Purdie)

My God is my light
My God is my savior
Why be afraid?
My God is my safety
My God is my home
I won’t be afraid!

Sure, I might get teased,
I might get hurt,
but I don’t need to be scared.
OK, people will call me names
and will try to bully me,
but I will stand tall!

Some days are bad days - that’s OK.
Some people say nasty things - that’s OK,
because I am hidden with Jesus
in the safest place,
in the arms of God,
like sleeping in a tent,
like standing high on a tall rock
where nothing can get me.

With God’s care around me
I will sing and dance
and shout for joy!
With God’s face shining on me
I will be patient though bad days.
I will be strong.
Take courage, my heart,
lean on God.
Psalm 47: A Shout of Praise
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Come in, come in,
come one, come all!
Lift your heart,
clap your hands.
Shout praise,
sing joy,
to our God, the Highest One,
to the Majesty of Majesties!

Come, see the world
from God’s perspective –
In him the victory has already been won,
all that troubles us is overcome,
under our feet.
In him we are at home –
come, claim your inheritance.
Come home to his love.

So lift God higher!
Let thanks and praise
lift the roof of your soul!
All that has been, is, or shall be
belongs to our God
and is restored by our God.
Come, give honour!
Come, give praise,
here and everywhere, amen!
Psalm 54: Help me now as you’ve helped me before
(written by Silvia Purdie)

You've done it before
and you'll do it again -
Answer my prayer, O God!
You've helped me before
and you'll help me again –
Save me, O God!
This has happened before
and will happen again –
I’m trapped, I’m attacked,
I’m sorry for myself.
Many are those who don’t know you -
they twist the truth
and work against your ways.
But then I remember
who I am to you.
I remember how you work
in me and through me
And so I praise you now
as I have praised you before
and will praise you again
for you are Lord
and you are good
and I am yours.
Psalm 108: A wake-up call
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Get up, wake up, come on everyone!
Today has begun, don’t miss a thing!
The music rises in our hearts
feel the beat, join the rhythm.
Sing! dance the wonder, sing the rhyme
We’ll call the sun into the sky
We’ll raise the roof with our praise
We’ll shout our thanks for all to hear!

Up, up, up, we lift you high, O God
Up through the stars and out the other side!
All of space and time sings your love
Through clouds and cities your glory rings.

Up, up, you lift us up,
out of our troubles, out of our pain.
We call for help and you answer, again and again:
“T love you. I will never leave you.
Where ever you go, I will lead you.
All the earth is mine,
everywhere you go, I’m there already
Everything you go through, I’m there at work
Nothing stands against me.”
O God, you are our help and our hope,
our power and our victory!
Psalm 126: A Harvest of Joy
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Remember feeling amazing!
Remember a time of celebration –
that was the Lord God at work!
Laughter rang out,
everyone was happy,
everyone laughed till they shook with joy!
The Lord has done great things for us and we reply with shouts of joy!

Remember feeling sad?
Remember tears running down your face –
God was with you then.
Your pain planted seeds
and your tears watered them.
The seeds grew in the tender mercy of God
growing fruit of wisdom
fruit of kindness.
Gather the fruit, and celebrate
that all things work for good in God’s ways.
Those who go out weeping
shall come home rejoicing.
The Lord has done great things for us and we reply with shouts of joy!
Psalm 127: The Lord builds the house
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Jesus as a boy trained to be a carpenter,
taught by his Dad on earth.
Jesus as our risen Lord is the master builder,
taught by his Father in heaven.
He builds us up,
he builds his church,
he builds our homes and families.
He draws the plans,
he provides the tools and timber,
he works beside us.
No need for us to get stressed,
to work too hard or get too tired.
We build in God’s power,
we rest in God’s peace.

Jesus as a boy loved his brothers and sisters.
Jesus as our risen Lord loves every child, everywhere.
Children are the most precious gift of all.
Children are our pride and joy.
Young and old we build God’s house.
We grow in God’s power,
we rest in God’s peace.
Psalm 131: Calm and Quiet
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Shush, my heart –
rest in the Lord.
Close, my eyes –
rest in the Lord.
Thoughts – stop rushing.
Body – relax!
Oh my soul – be calm and quiet.
Breathe in and out
and be still.

Big ideas and important jobs
can wait.
Yesterday’s hurts and tomorrow’s worries
can drift off,
for here and now
I am held
in the arms of God
like a little child
half asleep in her mother’s arms.

Trust in the Lord
in this moment
and for ever more.
Amen.
Psalm 133: Living in Unity  
(written by Silvia Purdie)

It's good, it's great, it's wonderful  
when friends are friends  
and family is family.  
It's good, it's great, it's wonderful  
when people get on well  
and everyone belongs.

Living in unity,  
享受每个人，  
分享共同的基石——  
这是上帝珍贵的礼物，  
像甘雨之后的凉爽，  
像欢笑的涌出，  
像回家。

God's life is life together.  
God's blessing is love,  
own and forever.
Psalm 138: Thank you for your love!

(Suitable for children to read in worship.
Alternate lines could be read by the congregation.)

(written by Silvia Purdie)

I give you thanks, O Lord, with all my heart.
I sing you praise, O Lord, with all my soul.

Thank you for your love, your amazing love that lasts forever.
Thank you for your love, your solid love that cannot fail.

You speak and your word is power!
You call and your name is glory!

When we cry out in our trouble you answer us.
When we stumble and fall you lift us up.

Your mercy cares for the weak.
Your touch pours out strength.

Thank you for your purpose for each you have a plan.
Thank you for your promise to hold us in your hands.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever!
Psalm 144: Blessed are God’s People
(a prayer by the church, for the church)
(written by Silvia Purdie)

Blessed are you, Father, Son and Spirit,
our rock and our refuge,
our home and our salvation.
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

The mountains smoke at your touch,
lightning flashes with your brilliance.
What are we to you -
we mere mortals, we weak and foolish people,
here one minute, gone the next -
What are we to you?
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

You call us and set us free.
You send us out to fight for what matters,
well trained, well equipped,
powered up with truth in a world of warped lies.
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Singers, sing new songs!
Musicians, play your best!
Our God goes ahead to claim the victory.
Our God undermines violence,
overcomes cruelty with mercy and truth.
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Boys, grow tall and strong,
bearing fruit of goodness.
Girls, grow tall and strong,
holding up the house of God.
Church, be blessed!
May your wallets and cupboards fill and overflow,
may blessings shower on you
and on others through you.
Church, be confident!
May your doors be open
and your walls be strong.
May everyone be welcome.
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**

Blessed are you, our God!
Blessed are we, as you pour your blessings on us.
Happy are the people who know you, Lord.
**Come, Lord, shape us, your people.**