



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for **Sunday 28 June 2020**

This week George has prepared a "View from St Kilda"
which you will find in the Newsletter.

PENTECOST 5A June 28st 2020 (Proper 8)

For those who like to follow all the lectionary readings for the Sunday and dip into the Old Testament and Epistles, the readings for this Sunday are: Genesis 22: 1 -14; Jeremiah 28: 5 - 9; Psalm 13; Romans 6: 12 - 23; Matthew 10: 40 - 42.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Matthew but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

As we are gathered, Jesus stand among us in thy risen power

The Bible is carried in: you are standing if you are able.

Our Holy Book is placed in the pulpit, open as our hearts and minds.

The music from Razvan leads us to silence.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

CALL

Thank you Lord,
as we opened our eyes this morning,
that we can know the presence of Christ Jesus by our side.
We may be alone but He is close.
Closer in more ways than we can imagine,
warmed by His presence.
The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

PRAYER

'You can be sure
that whoever gives a drink of cold water
to one of the least of these my followers
will receive a reward.'
May we offer a cup of water,
and not just cups of water,
but all that we are and all that we have,
to those who are thirsty needing quenched by you,
the Living Water.
May we offer the cup of kindness
in words and actions that reflect your love.
May we share in the cup that overflows
with the blessings from you, Lord God.

And may we be united,
by the cup shared from that meal
that makes us 'communion-ity'.
And with our worries our woes and our joys
may we be held cupped in your hands
and comforted by your grace.
We make our prayers saying...
... Our Father,
AMEN



And now we turn to Scripture, to Jeremiah 28:5-9 and
Matthew 10:40-42
Let us listen, read and hear the Word of God ...

REFLECTION

I was sent a WhatsApp message this week which I would like to share with you:-

'To raise a child takes a village. To home-school a child takes a vineyard.'

Thank you, Christine Munro, for your pastoral understanding at the Manse! And to all the other kind folk who asked me if I was looking forward to the school holidays after having three months of children in the house and the possibility of 'blended' learning at the end of the school break!

It could be worse, you prophets of doom and gloom – we could be living in Edinburgh where the council were suggesting one day of schooling per week!!

Indeed it has and continues to take a vineyard!

What has happened to the olden days? The days where your mother sent you to school telling you would get better as the morning wore on? The days where if you hurt your leg, your mother told you you had another leg, so drag yourself off to school. Remember the pea-soup days where you couldn't see two inches in front of you because of the fog or the smog in 'healthy', smoky Glasgow and you wore luminous armbands?

'School's out for summer, school's out forever' sang Alice Cooper, 'no more pencils, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks ...' just dirty looks from the parents, trying to work at the same time.

As you can gather, it was the concept of teaching that came back into my mind when I read the Gospel passage from Matthew. All of us (most of us) have been to school.

Some of you were high flyers, some of you in certain subjects perhaps needed that extra bit of guidance or discipline and the rest were lost in the middle group, being neither of the two.

When Jesus sent out his disciples into the world they were outsiders. Unlike ourselves, they had no religious institution to back them up, no political tools that their brand of religion demanded that they be treated fairly and equally, no power except for the Spirit guiding them how to serve.

Jesus, in previous parts of Matthew, told them to carry nothing – no money, food, or extra clothes to change into. I mentioned in a sermon recently how

little the world listens now to what the Church has to say. In a similar way to these first followers, we have to minister to the margins, our teaching one of vulnerability, exposure, one at risk. Christ wanted his message to come from the edges of society, not from the centre.

I think back to my days of schooling and those who were forgotten in the mass of bodies or the ones who were marked as a 'failure' and written off before the first lesson had begun and who became the class comedian to gain some respect and kudos and I ask, were they not also our teachers?

And in a wider perspective, all those who we sideline, those we believe are secondary, or are marginal – are they not the teachers?

The unemployed, the refugee, those who sleep rough on the streets, are they not our teachers too? All those who challenge our thinking and theology on gender issues, race issues, poverty, malnutrition, those seeking a cup of water and a cup of kindness – are they not our teachers too?

What are they conveying without a chalkboard, or Power Point, about how we live out our faith? We follow the man from Nazareth who lived and worked in the margins; the man who had nowhere to lay his head. Our Master, Rabbi, Teacher, spoke with those who often were the forgotten mass.

He worked with those excluded and pushed to the side and used them as visual aids to those who could not see or hear.

Constantine, in the 300's AD, has a lot to answer for by giving Christianity protection and status. The Church moved from the outside to the inside; from the margins to the centre. Perhaps, therefore, we are in a better place, for we have to fight for our position. We are now one voice amongst many and need to stand up for our cause and be able to express why following Jesus has changed our lives.

Importantly, by being pushed from the centre we can have some understanding of those who have never been anywhere near the centre and have greater empathy with them. The pupils become the teachers.

School is not really out, or stopped for the holidays, for life is a continual learning experience. Christian education does not just happen at a Sunday service or with Junior Church but happens when we 'blend' our faith into every day !

'... to home school a child takes a vineyard,'

and to learn from those whose lives question our faith so that we might learn and grow and move to 'solid food', as Paul reminds us.

What will that take ?

In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

AMEN

PRAYER

Lord,

why are we not 'living on the edge'?

Why do we not have a perilous lifestyle,

behaving in a manner more encompassing your teaching?

Why is our faith not a threat

to the established order?

Is it because we are part of it?
Jesus Christ,
you who lived on the periphery and died on the edge,
we pray this day for the marginalised people,
for those who are discriminated against,
for those trafficked.
We pray for those who stand up for the oppressed,
for those who speak out for the silenced,
for those whose lives teeter at the precipice.
We pray in your name for economic challenges to be overcome,
for opportunities to be embraced,
for changes to be long lasting.
As we move through the phases and businesses begin to prepare to open,
families meet again, friends socialise again,
we pray that we live on the edge,
in your strength and inspiration.
'There's something wrong with the world today
the light bulb is getting dim',
bring your light to us all.
AMEN

BENEDICTION

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.
Quench our thirst for love,
satisfy our need to be known,
assure us that we are indeed
prophets of welcome.
Let us go to proclaim this peace
in God's name.
Go this day
and may the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
AMEN

Whose house is this?
(Last week, it was
Gordon and Lilian Murray)



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