



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for **Sunday 21 March 2021**

Dear friends, welcome to another Sunday in our Lenten journey.

This morning we also welcome Kevin Cannon, who is going through the Discernment Process. Kevin will be participating in the service and personally I am looking forward to that.

Thanks to all who are participating in the Junior Church 21 for 21 challenge. Junior Church is doing well, introducing a warm up and even demonstrating exercises on their Sunday Zoom! Some members of the congregation have asked for details of the exercises so that they can follow the exercise plan too. If anyone else wishes to try it, and I'm sure you do, just email or phone Victor on victorcraig@gmx.co.uk or 07979703287.

If you wish to donate, supporting that way go to <https://www.justgiving.com/team/BroomhillHyndlandJuniorChurch> or send cash or cheques to Lilian Murray, 102 Randolph Road, Broomhill G11 7EE, cheques payable to "Broomhill Hyndland Junior Church."

As agreed on Wednesday past at the Kirk Session meeting, the Holy Week services will take place by Zoom at 7pm. The Palm Sunday service will be both in the Naseby Sanctuary with the Government's agreed number of 50 and then at 7pm on Zoom. On Easter Sunday our morning service will take place and will be streamed. Please remember, as restrictions are eased slightly, that booking has to take place.

In our prayers we remember the funerals that took place for Cathie Cuthbertson and Elsie MacDonald. I also have to intimate the death of Cecelia Thompson of Newtonhouse Care Home, whose funeral will take place on the 1st April.

Enjoy today's worship.

Every blessing, George

***Bookings for Palm Sunday are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.
Telephone 07851 591 503.***

Sunday 21 March - Lent 5 (Year B)

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: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Psalm 51: 1-12; Hebrews 5: 5-10; John 12: 20-33.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 141 Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure; 401 Tree of life and awesome mystery; 470 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun; 417 Now the green blade riseth.

In the Zoom services you'll find the words on the screen – so, in the safety of your own home, sing along!

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

Rest in His arms read, reflect, rejoice...

CALL

(we say together)

Longing for connection.

Longing to be not alone.

Longing for what makes life whole.

Longing for love.

Longing for God.

And God's longing back,

longing for all creation,

for every atom of being.

Longing for love.

Longing for me.

MUSIC FROM RAZVAN

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

(led by Kevin)

God of creation, who created this wondrous planet,
you revealed the earth, sky, sun, moon, stars
and all their complexities and mystery.

As spring steps through the window of seasons,
show us the majesty of plants and animals coming to new life.

Father, help us to marvel at spring's blinding beauty and renew our lives
as you show us the death and resurrection of Jesus in the coming of spring.

Father, encourage us to pause each day and treasure natural life,
for we are all children of God who must, like the grain of wheat, fall into the
ground to bear a rich harvest.

Father, please help us slow down our lives to that of the natural,
so that we may together praise and glorify our God.

God, while we may love our neighbours, we do not always love our natural life;
our planet is perishing and we cannot see it.

Father, open our eyes and heart to what is happening all around us,
and help us listen to you through the voices of scientists and campaigners today.

Father, you gave us this planet to hold lovingly and treasure,
but we are not relinquishing everything we own to hold onto it.

God, as the seasons and weather become confused,
climate disasters in the news remind us of those
which occurred before in scripture.

Before it is too late and our planet, unlike you, does not come back to life,
impress on us that planet conservation is one of your commandments,
that we must not murder our planet and make idols of other things.

You are speaking to us through scientists and campaigners,

help us not ignore them as we ignored you.
Father, forgive us, for we know not what we do.
Help us relinquish our lives and follow you.
Help us to self-sacrifice as you made the ultimate sacrifice for us.
For what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world
and lose his own soul.

We cannot live without this planet as we cannot live without you.
As you showed us, our old selves must perish for new life to be breathed into
this planet.

Thank you for saving us through your death and resurrection and showing us
new life.

God, help us to save ourselves again and not treat our planet in the same way
as we treated your Son, Jesus.

Our planet is our neighbour and your creation,
though we do not always fully understand it.

We thank you for your forgiveness of our mistreatment of your creation.

Father, as you entered into a covenant with your people, help us enter into a
new covenant with your creation
and, through repentance, enter a change of mind.

God, help us change our ways
and sing in harmony with the birds and your creation.



(The Lord's Prayer - together we say...)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever, AMEN

Let us turn to God's Word, found in John 12: 20-33 read by Kevin.

'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

...and now a hymn to sing along to, as we contemplate the readings.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of Love and God of Peace, create within me a heart for people, a desire for
change, for new beginnings, yes Lord, new beginnings. AMEN

REFLECTION

Sam Wheat – do you recognise the name?

Let me give you a clue, it's the character name played by Patrick Swayze in the
film 'Ghost.' You might remember the storyline: a banker, Swayze, begins a new
relationship with his girlfriend Molly, a potter (Demi Moore), in a Manhattan
apartment, and coming back from a night out Sam is shot by a mugger.

I wonder, in the light of the Gospel reading this morning, if the writer or the
director deliberately chose the name 'Wheat'? If he did, showing excellent Bibli-

cal knowledge, he used the surname to describe a relationship that was lost and then found in a new way.

I remember sitting in the now-closed cinema in Sauchiehall Street watching the film in 1990 with tears running down my face, such a softy that I am and a romantic!

'Unless a grain of wheat falls...' said Jesus.

Sam Wheat – a grain of wheat.

It is the pattern of life, the falling of a grain of wheat and in its dying the bearing of fruit. Think of the days when you fell in love and then committed your life to another. In the development of that new relationship there was a letting go of the older one, a letting go of the single one so that you could be with the other. Similarly, as a parent, there are sacrifices made to your life, so that your children will grow. To allow development, there is an acceptance there is a letting go so that they experience life in their own way. We give up parts of ourselves for the other.

Sam Wheat – a grain of wheat.

When we make choices in life we let go of some things so that other things can arise.

Think of choosing a University education and leaving one career behind.

Think of the changing seasons. I remember last year, in a prayer, suggesting that the word 'Fall' was better than Autumn because it described what was actually happening in nature. Likewise, Spring gives the impression of an upward movement – Jesus said, 'A grain of wheat must fall and in the dying bears much fruit.'

Among my favourite Easter hymns is not just 'Thine be the Glory' but the hymn set to the French carol melody 'Noel Nouvelet', Now the green blade riseth...

... and the chorus, 'Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.'

You see, the words mean a lot to me because I sang the song in Trinity College Choir when I was a student and when I sing the words and reflect on the line from John's Gospel, I too look at what I have left behind...

... and I think of my friends George Cowie the Presbytery Clerk and his wife Marian who sang in the choir; my Old Testament lecturer Professor Davidson who conducted it; others who entered the ministry and some like Donald Mackaskill who spoke out in the media on a regular basis about Social Care...

'... and a grain of wheat' '

the changing days and years, the changing seasons, the changing lives.

Abram left his country so that a nation could be born,

Jacob lost his old identity and was wounded and became a new man, Israel,

James and John left their father's boats to be fishers of people.

Loss and renewal, dying and rising, every day,

letting go and getting back,

leaving and returning – 'a wheat of grain must fall'. That's what our baptism means, the dying and rising of Christ, immersing in water and becoming new.

The Gospel reading's context is the Passover, a Jewish Festival that was about liberation, letting go, leaving behind, and the finding of a new life. Phillip tells Andrew about the Greeks and their request and they tell Jesus. To those who want to see Jesus: the Greeks, you, me, the response is the same, '... unless a wheat of grain falls to the ground and dies...'

We die a thousand deaths throughout our lifetime. The loss of a loved one, the loss of a relationship, health, opportunities, dreams – many of which we didn't ask for. When Kevin and I were having a chat, I told him about the dream of me wanting to be a police officer – that dream died. Our values change, our opinions change, even perhaps our political stances change as well and we let go that which is holding us back from the fullness of life that God offers...

... remember the Lenten reflections on anger, on promises broken, on boundaries crossed.. there are many things to let die...

Seeing Jesus is a truth to be embodied, it is a life to be lived. It is being a grain of wheat that falls into the ground so that it might bear fruit. This is where we see Jesus – in the letting go, in the leaving behind, in the dying that makes space to arise.

There I was in the cinema, it was dark, and 'Unchained Melody' played, and the saltiness ran down my cheeks. For those of you thinking that I was just looking for sympathy, 1990 was a painful time for me and the experience of letting go in many ways.

I listened to the words, 'I hunger for your love' ... Hungering for love, interesting .

Jesus said, 'I am the Bread of Life.'

Jesus said, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies...'

Reshaped, reformed, we live again and move on.

In truth, I wish the Church would take these words to heart and let go what needs to be let go of and let old ways die that she can rise anew. It makes room for new life, new roots to flourish. What are the things you need to let go of? Where can you bear much fruit? Maybe that's where you will see Jesus.

This reading is perfect timing for a Church seeking renewal.

It is a perfect reading that sets us up for Palm Sunday and Holy Week because we know when that grain of wheat dies. The empty tomb points us to the dawn of a new day, the grain to the Bread of Life, and the 'love that springeth green.'

'Love is come again, like wheat the springeth green.'

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bless, O God, our offering this day.

May it be a true sign of our trust in you to further the work of he who gave everything he had for us and for our world. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sir, we want to see Jesus?

Of course we would – as an impressive teacher, a charismatic leader, a miracle worker, an incisive thinker, a brilliant communicator, a holistic healer, an altogether remarkable man.

But to see Jesus, truly to see Jesus, will stand the world on its head.

So what would these Greeks see long ago?
what would we see if we looked hard enough?
Not a superstar, an idol made with human hands,
not a king, or maybe,
but a man on death row who calls us to follow.
A man who takes us to places we don't want to go –
do you want to see Jesus?
Then look on our streets,
look at the refugee on rubble once a home,
look at the child with water on her back,
look at the poor, the underprivileged, the rejected,
those called names –
then you will see the Saviour,
the man on death row expecting us to follow.
And when he is lifted up, drawing all to and through him,
we will see, eventually, good news.
Father, this Lenten time forgive us
when we want to see the Easter Christ
who puts an end to our problems.
Take off our rose-tinted spectacles
which gives blurred vision and political correctness that he should be nice.

May we follow you in the journey of life, the journey of your death
and the journey of your new life. AMEN

SENDING HYMN

BENEDICTION

May we find the road that leads to life
may we take the turns that bring right relationships
may we pause to accompany others on the way
and may we journey these last weeks of Lent with God
and long for the horizon and the dawn
Go in peace...
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit be with you all.

MUSIC FROM RAZVAN

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