



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

"Lighting the Way"

for **Sunday 25 April 2021**

Dear Friends,
welcome to another service in our Easter season!

What a beautiful week it has been with the sun shining and blue skies - if that wind would only disappear life would be that more pleasant! Writing about changes, you may be aware that after Monday 26th April, the cap of fifty people in our Sanctuary will change.

Assessing the new situation, we are increasing the number to 70 for the 2nd of May, following the same booking procedure which will allow our super risk team to alter signage and seating, monitoring the situation. The service on the 9th will be a service marking 75 years of Christian Aid which we hope to stream. If you wish to attend on the 2nd May please don't hold back, we are building our congregation back up and hopefully it won't be too long to have a fuller Sunday service.

This evening our Zoom service takes place at 7pm, likewise the following Sunday but if our streaming goes to plan, there will be no 7pm on the 9th. WD40 returns this Wednesday 26th at 2pm, again with the usual restrictions but it will be good to see you there.

Applicable also is the change in numbers of those who attend both funerals and weddings, now up to 50, but like our own Sanctuaries, it still can be a little complicated because it is partly based on the size, structure, architecture and capacity of the building.

To you all, I wish you a blessed Sunday,
George

***Bookings for 2 May are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.
Telephone 07851 591 503.***

Sunday 25 April - Easter 4 (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: Acts 4: 5-12; Zechariah 10; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16-24; John 10:11-18.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 462 The King of Love my Shepherd is; CH3 381 I will sing the wondrous story; 461 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds; Onward Easter people.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Luke 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

I AM the good shepherd
(the one who tends us, guides us into pastures,
who recognizes the sounds of our names).

I AM the good shepherd
(the one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us,
who gives up everything for us all).

I AM the good shepherd
(the one whose rod and staff comfort us, whose strength and love holds us,
whose cup of love runneth over).

I AM the good shepherd
and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.
Let us gather here
God's People,
in God's love,
for God's world.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Creator God,
around us lie so many signs of promise.
The dark days of winter, we hope, are behind us,
and lighter days, and warmth, and buds, and colours have returned.
Around us are signs of spring
and the special nature of life.

In Scripture we read of your love:
its richness, its depths, its constancy.
Jesus, the Shepherd,
a love not matched by ours.

'The Lord is my Shepherd.'
We believe we need a shepherd.
Because we are sometimes timid, sometimes over-confident;
because we often don't know the best path yet pretend we do;
because we rush in to dead ends or lead others into hazardous places;
because our brightest ideas are seamed with darkness;
because the things that we crave may not be what is good for us.
We need a shepherd.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Good Shepherd, we believe in you.
Your wisdom leads to the best possibilities,
your words comfort us when we are afraid,
your arm steadies us when we are weary and heavy-laden,
your wounds displays the cost of our rescue.

We believe in you.
That we do not find you but you find us,
that under your care, by sheer grace
the love you give us is to be shared with others,
that you treasure our names
and prepare places for us.

(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 10:11-18
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'
And now a hymn. Choose one from our opening page...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Hear the call of the Shepherd and allow his voice to lead us to his feast of grace.
May the light of Christ shine into the hidden darkness of our Lord and restore us
this day. Amen.

REFLECTION

Have you ever heard of 'Halo treatment'?
You might think, and rightly so, it has something to do
with the clergy. Similar to putting your car in for a ser-
vice and getting some kind of procedure to the paint-
work, or the oil topped up, or the plugs and points
checked.

Last Monday, as many of you know, I was back at the
Royal for another endoscopy to check on the original
Halo treatment work done in January 2020. I must ad-
mit, it was with a degree of irony that I thought of a
minister receiving Halo treatment!

It was like being with the doctor in Gartnavel who had
the surname of Priest – it is these little things that make
me smile, sad though it may be. With a little bit of im-
agination, you can see different types of clergy heading
into a department and handing over their halo to get a
once-over.

Then my mind started to wander, don't we all give halo
treatment to each other.

I think back to a Sunday School teacher called Bobby –



a super singer and performer on stage who asked regularly if I had considered full communicant membership of the Church.

As I move books from Russell House (to I don't know where) I look at the signed copies from my lecturers whom I admired so much at University: from the late Robert Carroll who taught me about Jeremiah and other Old Testament Prophets and could be persuaded, if you put up a good argument, to raise your marks to an exemption; to the late Professor Davidson who once described a sermon of mine like a Hearts football season – I'll leave you to think what he may have meant.

These Sunday School teachers, these lecturers, my parents, all having influence on me – I can hear their voices, even still, those who spoke the Shepherd's voice to me.

Sitting in my study bookshelves is a CH3 hymnbook from the Principal Clerk, given to me when I was his student in Langside. In the inside cover:

'To George from George. Stick to it.' He always was straight to the point!!

There are those who encouraged and challenged us and taught us. Each of these and so many more whose voices today are always reflecting the voice of the Shepherd, who were in their own way, shepherds themselves leading me to the Good Shepherd himself.

This, to me, is Halo treatment – people who direct you to God in their own ways. Voices shape you – they can be discouraging ones or they can be life-giving ones. Who are the voices that encourage you and motivate you?

Yes, stroke your ego...

polish your halo?

The people who brighten both the life that you lead and the spiritual?

As we are encouraged to listen for the voice of the Shepherd, think of those who shepherded you in the right direction. You see there are other voices. As in that wonderful Psalm that is part of our consciousness, Psalm 23, in the opening line the Psalmist is talking about himself – 'The Lord is MY Shepherd'.

His confidence and trust is in God but the implicit question is 'who is your shepherd?' In contrast to all the other voices the Psalmist might hear – other rulers, other resources that people might trust to shepherd them through turbulent times, the Psalmist trust in God.

In the beginning of May we are asked to vote in the Holyrood Elections. To try and claim our vote there are a clamour of voices. Which voice are you going to respond too – the voices that will do the best for the country as a whole or one that suits you as an individual?

For whilst we are rightly accustomed to singing or praying this Psalm as a private expression of God's goodness and our trust in him as individuals, there is a political dimension that should not be missed. The Psalmist to whom the Psalm is attributed to do is not a private individual but the representative of his people, blessed by the kingdom of God, yet assaulted by his enemies seeking his destruction.

Halo treatment.

People who lift you up in prayer, motivate you, love you.

I look back at some of the names personal to me, at different times of life. If you re-read the Psalm, it holds together three experiences of God.

God as the parental shepherd.

God as the friend and guide.

God as the welcoming host.

The same characteristics, the same love but three expressions, meeting the Psalmist at different experiences of his life and drawing out of him three responses.

The parental shepherd met through parents and Sunday school teachers and ministers who try to lead me to greener pastures: a Psalm full of provision that there is no need of want.

The parental shepherd experience of God is lovely but that isn't all there is. This Psalm is the most commonly quoted psalm in funerals and I don't think it would be that if it was just about rolling green pastures of abundant provision. This Psalm also has a deeper revelation about God.

We move into darker terrain. Perhaps the Psalmist reflects on life as an adult. Life that feels like walking through the darkest valley where death is everywhere we look, especially in this past year, especially in India at present. And I have had people there, also, when life gets hard, who will always stay in my memory because they listened to my voice and heard, I believe, the voice of the Shepherd.

Halo treatment.

Now the Psalmist finds that God isn't above him as a higher power, God is walking at his side, shoulder to shoulder as a friend and guide. This is a friend who does not leave him even when the road is darkest. This presence is a rod to fight off predators and a staff for us to lean on.

At the centre of this Psalm, perhaps at the centre of the whole bible, at the centre of the whole Christian life, is one phrase: "You are with me". Not "The Shepherd", not even "The Lord" referring to God by God's first name, given to his special people, in the darkest hour, the Psalmist moves from a relationship that talks ABOUT God to one that talks TO God.

The Psalmist talks and God listens and talks back.

God hears our voices and we listen for him. In the most difficult times God and Halo treatment – the Psalm, full of the present attention of God, not looking for provision or resolution, just grateful that God is with him – love the very essence of God.

He promises also a banquet, where differences are put aside and matters resolved. Faith, hope and love. Think of the people today who have given you the 'treatment' and heard your voice and thus heard Christ's too. Think of the people who at different stages in your life displayed the characteristics describe in this great Psalm, as a nurturer, a companion on the road and a welcoming host. And thank God that they have listened to HIS voice and brightened your day.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Living God, accept these offerings we bring to you in a whole variety of ways.

Grant that they may go where we can't go,
that they may reach where we cannot reach,
that they may do what we cannot do.

Use them to strengthen Your Church and advance your kingdom here where we are and far beyond for Jesus' sake.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Loving God,

Jesus Christ lay down his life for us.

In this season of Easter we rejoice that he is risen.

As a good shepherd he knew his sheep by name:

their idiosyncrasies; their foibles;

their faithfulness and their wanderings.

We too are known and understood by you;

named and loved for everything about us that makes us who we are.

Loved and known and named – the Good Shepherd:

those in our communities where there is both joy and happiness,

distress and sorrow,

for those starting a new job or reaching retirement,

in the midst of change, may new arrivals and fresh starts bring hope.

For those who are ill or bereaved, in the midst of these times

may the Easter message bring solace support and encouragement.

Lord Jesus Christ,

you lay down your life, you gave your all,

and so we remember those who sacrifice much for those they love,

for those they do not know, but are known and named by you;

yes, Lord, who give the 'halo' treatment,

those who give up much of their time forgoing their own needs and wants,

forfeiting their own leisure to lift someone's spirit,

give a helping hand, make a situation brighter

to make the world better a place. AMEN

SENDING HYMN

BENEDICTION

We will go into the world – abiding in God,

We will speak the things of God – abiding in God,

We will live out the new commandment – abiding in love,

And trust the God who shapes that love in us – abiding in love.

Go in Peace...

and may the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

Go now and serve the Lord.

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