



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

“Lighting the Way”

for **Sunday 9 May 2021**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another service. Today we celebrate the super work of Christian Aid. Our service will be streamed (the link is being sent to those who receive these by email) and therefore, hopefully, reaching a wider audience. My thanks to those in our Christian Committee who have helped with the organisation of this service.

As today's worship is being streamed, there will be no Zoom service tonight. A reminder to all that Presbytery meets this Tuesday and our Kirk Session meets by Zoom on Wednesday 19 May. On Wednesday 12 May, WD40 has its 2pm service in the Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary.

The June Communion is also approaching and, with approval from the Kirk Session, this will take place in the Naseby Park Sanctuary. Whilst restrictions will still be in place, we believe this is a step in the right direction. After booking, (which is still a requirement at the moment though the cap on numbers has been lifted), please bring your own bread! The wine will be in place for you and this will allow us to taste both the bread and wine together. I am really looking forward to that great celebration once more.

As I intimated last Sunday, we are progressing and still plan to have refreshments in the Sanctuary and it will be a particular delight to have the children of Junior Church back in the buildings complex once again - even although they are separate. Hopefully it won't be long until they are worshipping with us and we can sing heartily in praise to God.

I wish you every blessing and more, *George*

***Bookings for 16 May are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.
Telephone 07851 591 503.***

Sunday 9 May- Easter 6 (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 10: 44-48; Genesis 35: 9-15; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6 ; John 15: 9-17.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 132 Immortal, invisible, God, only wise; CH3 501 Far round the world; The Lord's my Shepherd (Stuart Townend); 155 Think of a world without any flowers; 252 As a fire is meant for burning.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Psalm 23 but please read and ponder the suggested Scripture and see how it connects and what it says to you.

**Real people.
Real change.**

**75
years**

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

CALL

Lord, we thank you for the earth
which mothers us, feeds us, clothes us, shelters us.
For air to breathe THANK YOU, LORD.
For water to drink THANK YOU, LORD.
For food to eat THANK YOU, LORD.
For shelter and warmth THANK YOU, LORD.
For beauty and fun THANK YOU, LORD.
Forgive us that we are careless with the earth, polluting it and harming it.
For hill, field and wood TEACH US TO CARE.
For river, lake and sea TEACH US TO CARE.
For bird, animal and fish TEACH US TO CARE.
For flower, bush and tree TEACH US TO CARE.
For your people TEACH US TO CARE AS YOU CARE.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

'Close your heart to every love but mine... love is as powerful as death, passion is as strong as death itself.' Song of Solomon 8:6
An awakening to possibility.

A noticing of another.

An impulse to give and share and enjoy.

Lord God you gave human hearts
to open and swell and surge with powerful love.

So special the sharing...
so amazing the feeling...
so unspoken the trusting...
so all-consuming the love that
is too strong, too much.

Lord God you gave human hearts
to open and swell and surge with powerful love
and we close and restrict and limit
and condition and suppress and protect
our hearts that have been hurt.
So guarded the sharing...
so painful the feeling...
so broken the trusting ...
so devastating the love that is as powerful as death.

So many opportunities missed because hurt and happiness,
loving and losing, are part of the same coin,
the right and left ventricle,
oxygenated love going out, de-oxygenated love coming in.

We hold back our love 'that will not let us go'.
Help us to love like you, Lord, when we only love in a limited way.

Easter God,
bring healing and hope, resurrection and restoration
to tightly closed hearts today.

(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 Psalm 23
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord speak to me, that I may speak, in living echoes of your tone, O feed me
Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet, O teach me Lord,
that I may teach the precious things which you impart. AMEN

REFLECTION

It was only two weeks ago that one of the passages read that Sunday was from
the book of Psalms. I return to that famous Psalm again today because it says
so much as we celebrate 75 years of Christian Aid this morning at the start of
Christian Aid week.

Firstly, though, I want to begin with a word of thanks. Over the years our
church has been highly involved in Christian Aid. There have been many fund-
raisers organised by our local committee and by representatives of our own con-
gregation and who can forget the Plant Sales in the Kingsborough building that
raised so much. I want to say thanks to our 'ain folk' who have kept Christian
Aid on the agenda – through meetings, events and articles in newsletters and
magazines.

Psalm 23 - we know it so well - we listened to the music of Stuart Townend.

'The Lord is my Shepherd... I SHALL NOT WANT.'

Or in another translation,

'The Lord is my Shepherd... I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED.'

If there ever was a message to hold on to with both hands as we reflect on the
work done by Christian Aid it is this line from the Psalms – 'I shall not want... I
have everything I need.'

Christian Aid is a global justice movement, so everything that is done is done
together. In the 29 countries that they work in, Aid partners with communities
to provide the simple things: food, water, shelter and sanitation. Simple things

that many of us take for granted but are vital.

Together, long term practical solutions are developed such as renewable energy, training and education, community resilience and empowerment. Together, voices are raised, as well as money to advocate for systemic political change that will change the future.

I watched the video of Florence and how far she walks and the dusty roads she travels and I know 'I have everything I need' and if we are honest in our Western world, many of us do. When I was reflecting on Christian Aid, I was drawn to their website and a very brief sermon which talked about flowers.

As you know, flowers in the Manse don't survive very well; they are either over watered or left parched. I think the point of the sermon on YouTube was quite clear – there are parts of the world that have an over-abundance of resources and other parts that, through a lack, are arid and dry.

Like the flowers in the Manse – there is enough water but it's not shared equally but there is enough. Christian Aid, in fact, we Christians, believe that God has provided us with a wonderful world, shared fairly, looked after and stewarded properly, is more than adequate, if...

... if we work together.

The words of the Psalmist haunts me.

Yes, theologically, he is correct – with Jesus, I have everything I need but practically, when I watch the news, when a charity like Christian Aid draws my attention to how others live and what we are doing to our planet –

'I have everything I need' hits home.

'I have more than I need.'

I've said it before – during this Pandemic we discovered what we really needed and what we had to let go of. Many things we took for granted were lost and when shelves were emptying it gave us a reality check.

We asked ourselves, 'What do I really need?' and it wasn't a trip to NEXT in Braehead or a walk down Buchanan Street. When we shopped, certainly, at the beginning, we took what we could get. The shopping list disappeared and we had to accept if there was no chicken on the shelf then there was none.

Translations are translations and sometimes, because we struggle to find the right words, the meaning is affected. There seems to me to be a difference between 'I have everything I need' and 'I shall not want.' The latter suggests not wanting, not desiring but it niggles away at us no matter what we have. 'Having everything I need' seems to be more of acceptance and satisfaction to what you have.

When you watch a Christian Aid video, the world seems upside down.

The Western world speaks 'I shall not want' but continues to take more than its share and those in the poorer parts, Kenya, Bangladesh, to name just two, in all humility, tell you that they 'have everything they need.' Isn't that often the case, that those with little, give much, and are more hospitable and generous?

'I have everything I need.'

What do you think of that line of Scripture? How does it impact on your life and your faith?

Ask yourself, during this Pandemic, how much did you really need? Some of the answers came from you, dear friends –

I need a cuddle from my family;

I need share time with friends;

I need to get back to Church;
I need the hymns to praise God more fully;
I need the touch on my shoulder, the handshake, the kiss on the cheek.
Most of the need was not the material but the physical.
Shouldn't we then be sharing more of the physical?
In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. AMEN

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of unimaginable love,
we have known of your caring
since we were babies in our mother's arms.
We have been told the stories of your love,
and we have sung songs about your love.
These things bring us comfort.
What challenges us is the command of Jesus,
"As I have loved you, so you should love one another" –
not just those who think as we do, pray as we do,
and look the way that we do.
Help us, through our giving, our living and our loving,
to live up to the challenge of loving as you would have us love.
In the name of our risen Saviour, we pray. AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

Christian Aid's 75 years of service; Christian Aid Week; India with Covid; Colombia in protest; Razvan and family; the preparation towards the General Assembly; the call to end Vaccine Nationalism in a global community; the Government as it becomes re-elected that it makes decisions wisely.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

'Love one another', you said.
Easy, Lord.
I know with whom I love –
my family, my friends,
those in my church community,
those who think the way I do,
like what I like.
Those who love me back.
'Love one another', you said.
You mean there is more?
Loving those I'm not keen on, those I disagree with,
I'm not so sure.
And of the other nations far round the world,
people and places, I don't know?
'Love one another',
the greatest challenge of our day,
to show care and compassion far and wide;

to learn the importance of togetherness in the planet gifted by God;
to love that world and all within it;
to show respect and to root out inequality and injustice.
The greatest challenge... with the supplementary...
'...as I have loved you.'
To love like you Lord God,
to give of ourselves, to lay down our lives.
We give thanks for the loving that is done day and daily
and the love expressed by 75 years of Christian Aid.
75 years of service, loving action,
to those who know the scales tip against them.
Lord God, help us to continue to transform lives,
transform communities and transform our world.
God of life, who values all people,
help us to ensure a just and sustainable world for all.
How?
By loving one another, as you love us. AMEN

BENEDICTION

God's arms in the solitude
God's hand in the crowd
God's word in the silence
God's whisper in the noise.
God's voice in the darkness
God's echo in the light
God's calm in the conflict
God's rhythm in the harmony
God's help in the possible
God's hope in the impossible
God's touch in the breeze
God's kiss in the raindrops
God's comfort in the Spirit
God's love in your life.
Go in Peace... and May the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all..

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