



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

“Lighting the Way”

for **Sunday 13 June 2021**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Sunday and a time of worship again.

Can I thank our Communion Team who organised last Sunday's preparations so that, at last, we could break bread together in the Naseby Sanctuary. What a pleasure that was at the same time to taste and see and know of the goodness of the Lord.

This coming Tuesday Robert Hynd will be installed as the Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery for the new session. We wish him well in all that he does for Glasgow, as well as the joy of moderating the meetings!

Sadly I have to announce the death of two of our members: Sheila Proudfoot and June Watson. Please remember their family and friends in prayer.

Next Sunday is also Father's Day but as we turn to worship this day, in many ways every day is our Heavenly Father's Day!

Every blessing,

George

***Bookings for 20 June are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.
Telephone 07851 591 503. Each week thereafter please phone to book.
Although seats should be available, we still need your details for the
Scottish Government's Test and Protect.***

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 15 June Presbytery and the Installation of Robert Hynd as Moderator
- 20 June Morning Worship (Naseby) – Father's Day
- 23 June WD40 (Kingsborough)
- 27 June Morning Worship and the Baptism of Daniel Lee
- 30 June Graduation Service (Kingsborough) led by the Moderator
- 4 July Morning Worship (Naseby)
- 5 July- 21 July Minister's Holidays
- 11 July Morning Worship led by John Boyle
- 18 July Morning Worship (tba)

Sunday 13 June – Pentecost 3 (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: 1 Samuel 15: 34-16: 13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17: 22-24; Psalm 92: 1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 11-13; Mark 4: 26-34.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 235 God is working his purpose out; 526 This is a day of new beginnings; 231 For the fruits of all Creation; 153 Great is thy faithfulness.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on Mark 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

Mighty God, to you belong the mysteries of the universe.
You transform shepherds into kings,
the smallest seeds into magnificent trees,
and hardened hearts into loving ones.
Bless us with your life-giving Spirit,
recreate us in your image,
and shape us to your purposes,
through Jesus Christ. AMEN

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we come this day,
having seen the miracles of everyday creation of our world.
We have enjoyed both the bright sunshine and the gentle rain.
We have marvelled
over the beauty of the flowers
and the complexity of your creative hands.
We praise you.
Make our hearts ready to receive your word for us,
that we may ready to go forth from this place
ready to joyfully serve you.
Patient God,
you know how we are.
We let the frustrations
and the worries of our lives overcome us.
Our hearts seem to buckle
under the weight of anger and confusion.
And we turn away from you,
sure that you can do nothing to alleviate our strife.
How foolish we are!
How faithless we can be!
Father forgive us.
Help us to learn that you are actively involved in our lives,
as a creative co-worker, seeking healing and hope
not only for each of us, but for the whole world.
Make us into disciples of peace and compassion.

We are spiritual treasure but are common clay pots.

Here is the secret to happiness:
you are not the jar but the light.
The jar cracks and breaks: the light spills out.
Lighten our lives this day.

(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 Mark 4: 26-34
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

And now a hymn. Choose one from our opening page...

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Grant us O God, to know that which is worth knowing; to love that which is worth loving; to praise that which can bear praising; to hate what is in your sight unworthy, to prize what to you is precious, and above all, to search out and to do that which pleases you. Thomas a' Kempis.

REFLECTION

I think I am lacking faith!

How is that for an opening line from your minister?

'Faith in what?' you might ask.

Scotland in the Euros? That is understandable.

Governments' inability to handle COVID?

That's possible, with numbers rising again.

No, what is challenging me is the Gospel reading from Mark this morning, 'The Parable of the Growing Seed.' I have always been brought up with the idea that the scattering of seeds, the displaying and sharing of God's abundance, is the correct thing to do. So, when nothing happens right away, when change is not apparent, there is no need to be anxious.

Seeds, generally, have to fend for themselves to a certain extent, certainly in the world outside. The gardener in Mark's story trusts the seeds. He trusts the sun, the shade, the clouds and the rain.

Yes, he participates in the process of planting and harvesting, and he pays attention to the changing of the seasons, but he knows he is not really in charge for he is operating in a realm of mystery.

The implication then, is that the Kingdom of God comes not with the work we

do, the striving, the struggles and the endeavours that we carry out; nor by piety or prayer but by grace alone. The Kingdom of God grows and thrives whether we pull out the stops or not.

I don't have a problem with that principle. I am quite happy to sing, 'God is working his purposes out' and believe it wholeheartedly.

In Church terms, we have used the same philosophy: we sow seeds and the return and the harvest takes time and it may not even be on our own watch. But I'm human, and though my faith can be strong, it can also falter. So we try our best to be a welcoming church and when, in the past, before the pandemic, our pews were full - on a Youth Parade, or Remembrance, or Christmas - we held on to the hope that strangers, guests and some of our members would return in a more regular basis -

and when they didn't,

we quoted the parable and referred to the fact that seeds need time to grow, they are hidden in the fertile ground beneath the surfaces we see and quantify. We told ourselves that the seed was sown and the process of bringing forth was hidden from our eyes and that in a deeper sense we ourselves lived theologically between the planting and the harvesting. How many of us in the past have sung that old hymn, 'Bringing in the sheaves', knowing that, in a future time, 'we would all go rejoicing bringing in the sheaves'?

I've told you before about Bobby, one of my Sunday School teachers from when I was a boy. I attended Church every Sunday, got my card marked in the 'Young Worshipers' League and every so often Bobby would ask me when I was going to be a full communicant member of the Church. The seed that had been planted was being watered, nourished, encouraged into the light by Bobby, by my BB Captain and others.

So I apologise this morning that I lack faith because I cannot see it happening and it makes me wonder if we have used the imagery as an excuse. Someone whispered in my ear recently that Glasgow Presbytery had no 'Professions of Faith' last year.

None.

Yes, I know there was and is a Pandemic, but the biggest Presbytery, now even bigger as the Presbytery takes churches from Cumbernauld, which will also affect the allocation of ministerial posts, had not one person committing themselves to Christ. Of all the activities the Church is involved in: Care of the Elderly; Foodbanks; Weddings; Baptisms; End of Life; Youth Work; Chaplaincy and more, all the seeds that were sown by presence, by pastoral work, by the preaching of the Word; by the welcome we give, by the accommodations we open up and share, not one person in Glasgow and its bounds declared publicly their faith in God.

I can reflect on the mustard seed that grows wildly and in places you don't want it to grow - likewise, the Kingdom of God spreads that way too, like weeds, in many ways without order.

I can reflect on the birds nesting in the trees, where farmers and gardeners would not want - an indication that the Kingdom of God is one that inclusive, bringing people who might be rejected.

But the seeds: what has happened to the seeds we have planted?

Some will have fallen on fallow ground. Some will be eaten up in other things in the world but those on the good ground, why does it seem that they are not flourishing?

Mark tells us that the gardener was 'asleep'.

Depending on the translation you read there is an implication that it wasn't his normal sleep pattern. Maybe that's what is concerning me. The Kingdom of God will come, but like creation as a whole, the world we live in, we are stewards of it.

With the seeds, despite the mystery of how the Kingdom of God stretches, grows and flourishes, stewarding from us must take place unlike the lazy gardener. William Placher, in his commentary of Mark writes:

'Ministers can preach the word, teachers can teach, Christians of all sorts can try to provide good examples of the Christian faith but conversion to the Christian faith doesn't follow neat recipes. It happens, indeed, underground.'

God's realm is something of a mystery which will be revealed only later but that does not excuse inaction, or letting God carry the can. Here is the thing. The seeds dropped, below the surface, hidden, are for the Kingdom of God – they are not for the Church.

The Kingdom will come whatever and it will come in ways we cannot imagine. The Church may only be a stepping stone to the fruition of the Kingdom.

Yes, I wonder about the seeds and I struggle with it but my faith is sure about the Kingdom.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of all bounty and blessing,
the gifts we offer to you are like seeds.
Some will take root nearby,
and we will see them grow and bear fruit.
Some will be carried far beyond where we can see,
and we have faith that they will find good soil and thrive.
We thank you for the privilege of being called to sow.
Bless with the joy of good fruit the seed
we will see and the seed we will never see.
We pray this in the loving name of Jesus,
gardener and Saviour. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, I am not green fingered,
lacking enthusiasm to toil the earth,
but my thinking can be naive and green.
In the past I have looked at winter fields,
brown and bare, and called them empty.
I have watched the trees let go of autumnal leaves
and called them empty also,
but it is I who is empty headed and hearted.
The key to what is going on is inside: germination.
Samuel, hearing and not understand a call,
David still with his sheep,
Jesus still in Joseph's shop,

waiting for the greening of spring.
Whilst frustrated and unable to fathom your wonders and your ways,
anoint my eyes to look, and seeing no sign,
encourage me to know that the seed is there, dormant, but there,
waiting for a persistent love to waken it.
When seeing no sign,
let me know that the seed is there, germinating,
waiting for a gentle trusting love to water it.
Anoint my eyes,
let me see what's going on in all who populate my world inside,
so that I know how to treat and respect the needs below the surface.
We cannot judge by appearances,
I cannot,
neither did Samuel when he looked at the sons of Jesse,
neither did Jesus when he called the disciples forth
or when he sat with supposed sinners at supper,
below the surface,
growing, out of sight.
Help me in my unbelief when I cannot see in the earth
and those who are very much your children earthed in this world. AMEN

BENEDICTION

God is good.
God's purposes are just.
God's way is right.
God's road is ours to follow.
Christ's truth is our guide.
His message is for our salvation.
The Spirit gives us life.
Our fullness and hopefulness are secured.
So go now, in the goodness of God,
to walk God's Way,
to follow God's Truth,
to live God's Life,
and to be embraced,
now and always,
by God's blessings.
Go in Peace, and may the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you, now and forever. AMEN