



for Sunday 6 June 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Sunday service and time of worship.

In our Naseby Park Sanctuary this morning we are celebrating the Sacrament of Communion. For those using the Reflections, that opportunity is there for you too, in the comfort of your homes. So take a moment to prepare some bread and wine and, though apart, we are together in the one body of Jesus Christ.

At the end of our service this Sunday I will be dedicating the tree outside the Marlborough Sanctuary, placed there as a focal point to those in our parish who have lost a family member or friend. We have already, in the past, scattered ashes there and paused, knowing that the root of Jesse links us with earth and with heaven.

Last Sunday was our last Zoom in the evening. As predicted, there were a couple of blips but over all the Zoom services I cannot thank you enough for the support. Some have been at both services, in the morning and the evening and even read the Reflections in between! Likewise, I was touched by the members of the congregation who supported Kenneth and Christine last Wednesday, not just by attendance at the Crematorium but by streaming and also standing in Poplar Avenue.

All these seemingly small actions matter more than you will ever realise.

I wish you every blessing on this June Sunday,

George

*Bookings for 13 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.*

Sunday 6 June - Pentecost 2 (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 8: 4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138; Genesis 3: 8-15, Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1; Mark 3: 20-35.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here: 677 Sons and daughters of the Spirit (v2-4) Rhuddlan; 626 Holy Spirit Truth Divine; 19 Ye Gates; 622 We sing a love that sets all people free.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on 2 Corinthians 4: 1-18 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

How good and generous you are, Holy Potter,
to create us and equip us with diversity.
How wise and provocative you are, Blessed One,
to call us out
when we would withdraw into ourselves!
How lavish and surprising you are, Immortal God,
to pour spirit over us and gush love on us.
Holy Potter, our Creator, the Blessed One, our Teacher,
our Sustenance,
we praise you this day.
Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

God the Creator,
we come in awe of you.
We are overwhelmed by the wonder of your creation;
we are inspired by the mystery of life;
we are amazed by the beauty of your world;
we are astonished that such a God
would have anything to do with the likes of us.

So, in silence before you, in awe and wonder,
humbled before your greatness.

God the Son,
who has come amongst us in the person of Jesus;
you have walked our streets;
you have lifted our children;
you have sat in our churches;
you have blethered with our fisher folk.
So we come, with you beside us,
no longer remote and distant.
We come, no longer in fear and trembling,
but seeking the embrace of your love,
the smile of your acceptance,
the touch of your forgiveness.
We dare to come close to you because you have come close to us.

God the Spirit of Life,
we are thankful for your constant presence;

for the healing of your love;
for the challenge of your Word;
for the inspiration of your Gospel;
for the community of your Church.

Renew us and refresh us;
enable us and enliven us;
challenge us and change us;
prompt us and improve us ...
in our worship ...
in our mission ...
and in our service.

AMEN

Let us turn to God's Word, found in 2 Corinthians 4: 1-18 .

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

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



PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, make me yours today and, in the making, make me other people's too:
that love may grow in me towards them, and you. AMEN

REFLECTION

'We are busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
trying to find lots of things not to do.

We're busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime,
We'd like to be unhappy but, we never do have the time.'

Above are the lyrics of the Disney song used by EDF, an Energy Company.

The ditty is also perhaps in the head of the former Moderator, the Very Reverend Martin Fair, who reminded the whole Church that there is 'work to do.'

He said, '... until the last foodbank in Scotland is closed because there is no longer any need, we have work to do. For as long as there are children growing up in Scotland whose life's chances are at best compromised, we have work to do. Nuclear warheads, impoverished communities, drug statistics, mental health, darkness their only friend... there is work to do, work to do, work to do.'

And so, this morning, in Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth, and the section on 'Spiritual Treasure in Clay Pots', Paul writes, 'God in his mercy has given us this work to do.' (4:1)

After a General Assembly like no other and a year like no other, it is easy to become despondent. It is easy to believe that the Church is going to the dogs.

It is easy for others, when they look at the exasperation, worry and concern for where the Church seems to be going, to believe in the words of the great critic Friedrich Nietzsche who used to say the problem with Christians was that they didn't look very redeemed. There's something inescapably glass-half-empty

about much, perhaps most, of the Church. It suits our Scottish psyche to see the negative rather than the positive and to be pessimistic rather than optimistic.

It is a Scottish trait to celebrate Glasgow moving into level 2 and then, looking forward to the fans-zones for the Euros, believe that there will be a surge in the virus after they leave.

It is part of the Scottish make up to moan about the rain in May, feel the heat last week and then whine because it is too hot and we can't get to sleep at night.

Though God in Christ has redeemed our past through forgiveness and created our future through everlasting life, we still find a way to say it was disappointing the final hymn was a little bit flat. The Apostle Paul is a man of many gifts but, let's be honest, he's not always the cheeriest guy in the block.

I wonder if he is Scottish?

In Second Corinthians chapter 4 he's clearly having a tough spell in ministry. Don't let anyone tell you the Bible presents a fanciful rose-tinted picture of the life of faith. Quite the contrary: Paul frequently lists the hardships of an apostle in such terms that he seems on the edge of a nervous breakdown. But that only makes his reflections the more fascinating, because if it was simply a pathway to glory we'd struggle to relate to it, but in reality it's all-too human.

Yes, Paul may be a Scot because in his communication with the Church in his time he has realised what is dawning on us, that in some way we have changed the message, we have watered it down, and made it more palatable, rather than facing the truth.

In A.J. Cronin's 1937 novel 'The Citadel' a young doctor, Andrew Manson, arrives in a Welsh mining town and marries Christine, a local teacher. Having struggled with every sinew to improve the lives of his miners, once his research is published he takes up a private practice in London, where quickly he makes easy money from idle patients and lazy surgeons. His wife no longer recognises who he is. Andrew Manson's done exactly what Paul is describing: he's started giving his patients what they want, rather than what they need.

Many a wise elder has said to their minister, 'you can't keep everyone happy' but many ministers try to and what happens is that the work, the mission of the Church, does not get done, or is put to the side. In last Sunday's sermon, some of you may have thought I was being a bit harsh, especially quoting statistics, but there is a need, a need more urgent than ever before, to be honest and truthful, for there is work to be done and as the Church reforms, pain to be experienced.

Is it better for me not to tell you?

But let's be positive. Let's be upbeat. Let's be a glass half-full.

Here is the irony; Paul says we think we're the best representatives of Christ when we're successful and stylish, and convincing. That's why we're tempted to lie, manipulate, blame or tell fibs about the Church. But Paul says, actually it's not like that. Think about a clay jar: a fragile item of pottery you'd carry a candle in. It breaks the first time you drop it or nudge it into a surface or plate.

That's what we're like. What's important is not how robust we are, but the treasure we're carrying.

When you and I are honest and admit the reality of the situation the Church is in we find ourselves afflicted, perplexed, concerned and worried – and then Paul

uses two small words, 'but not.'

'We are afflicted, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.' We get to share Christ's crucifixion: but only so we get to share his resurrection also.

There, is the message we need to hear.

Yes, there is work to do and it's hard. The structures will change, reforms will come, cut backs – all part of the work, busy work, but with a purpose.

And when you feel that life is on top of you, when you believe that the Presbytery can't see the wood for the trees, remember Apostle Negativity's words, but not'.

Not crushed.

Not forsaken.

Not destroyed.

Crucified at times and leading to resurrection.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

AMEN

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We give what we have, but not all –
help us to be more generous.

We serve as we are called –
help us see when you are calling us further.

We love within our limits –
help us to break down these barriers.

So that we may love you and serve you
and give wholeheartedly
in Jesus' name.

We hand our gifts on a plate:
you gave us your love on a cross.
Help us reconcile the difference.

AMEN

PRAYER POINTS

COVID; Sri Lanka ship and environmental fears; civil war in Ethiopia; India and our partners in Hyderabad; The National Church and its reforms

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Life and work, Lord,
are they two different things?
When it is a career, an occupation,
even a vocation
for pastor or priest,
nurse or teacher,
there comes a time

when the boots are hung up,
the gardening gloves worn,
and life in retirement, takes on a more gentle pace.
At least in theory!
The work done,
life takes on new priorities,
or old ones that had been shelved a long time ago.

But for the Christian?
Living, loving, learning in Christ,
working, witnessing.
That's a life's work.
There is work to do in our world, Lord, always.
You recognised that there will always be the poor,
those hungry needing nourishment,
those abused and needing shelter,
those seeking employment and work,
and recognition of who they are,
valued and respected.
Yes, Lord, we can step back in careers
but we need to step up
in the day and daily calling and following of you.
AMEN

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, cleanser of temples and souls,
in our Pentecost journey
look deep within our hearts and our lives
and clear away all that holds us back.

May our minds, spirits and bodies
be a Temple that is open to Your presence:
and may our words and our actions
be transparent to Your love and truth.

We pray that this church community
will be purified in its life and mission,
so that all that we do in and from here
may reveal Your Gospel to others.

In a moment of silence we sit before You,
and name those things for which
we seek Your cleansing and healing,

so that we may be more faithful disciples.

(Silence)

Lord Jesus,
it was your will that your Father's House
would be a place of prayer for all people.
Grant us the strength and wisdom to be a people
consumed with prayer and zeal for you,
this day and always. AMEN

INVITATION

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring bread,
made by many people's work
from an unjust world
where some have plenty
and most go hungry.

At this table all are fed
and no one turned away.
Thanks be to God.

What do you bring to Christ's table?

We bring wine,
made by many people's work
from an unjust world
where some have leisure
and most struggle to survive.

At this table, all share the cup
of pain and celebration
and no one is denied.
Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us
the body and blood of Christ:
our witness against hunger,
our cry against injustice,
and our hope for a world
where God is fully known
and every child is fed.
Thanks be to God,
so come and know these gifts.

FRACTION

We share bread and wine together
remembering the words of that ancient meal...
Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it,

and gave it to his friends.

Eat and Remember.

He poured the wine, offered thanks for it,
and shared it with his friends.

Drink and Remember.

Ancient symbols,
common acts.

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

BENEDICTION

Go now
and dare
to be God's colourful community
in a world that prefers grey.
Dare to stand out
in a world that prefers conformity.
Dare to live
in a world that seeks death.
Dare to be God's
in a world that thinks it is its own.



Broomhill Hyndland Church of Scotland

Minister: Rev George Mackay

Tel 0141 959 8697 Mob 07711 569 127

Church Office: 64 - 66 Randolph Road, Glasgow G11 7JL Tel 0141 569 5059
office@broomhillhyndlandchurch.org www.broomhillhyndlandchurch.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC007820