



**Broomhill Hyndland
Parish Church**

“Lighting the Way”

for **Sunday 1 August 2021**

Welcome to another time of worship, now in the month of August.

Last Sunday was a strange experience, being able to sing in the Kirk after such a long time. I know with masks it is not quite the same but boy was it great to hear our congregation joining in to the music from the organ.

As has been previously intimated, the Risk Team have re-calculated the space in both our buildings, now that we are down to a one metre distance. More space - more people, but remember to book!

This Sunday there will be no tea at the close of worship as in the afternoon Karen and James will be married. Now in my eighth year amongst you, this will be my first wedding actually in the Naseby Park Sanctuary - how times have changed. Whilst we don't make proclamations of banns anymore, it was nice to intimate this excitement in the lives of Karen and James, their families and we, the Church family. We wish them God's blessing in the new paths they will travel together.

This Wednesday WD40 returns in the Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary. As always, you are welcome to our 2pm service. You will receive a cuppa there and some lovely midweek fellowship and next Sunday when we return to Naseby, the fellowship at the close of worship will take place in the small hall as well as the Sanctuary.

Slowly but surely, more steps in the right direction.

My thanks as always to all who keep our church functioning over these summer months.

Every blessing, George

Although there will not be any refreshments after worship today, next week, Sunday 8th August we will be trying out a new idea. Coffee and tea will be served in the Small Hall for those who wish to sit and chat, and the usual trolley will be in the Sanctuary for those who wish to stand (a meter apart) and catch up with all the news. Please stay and enjoy more of Broomhill Hyndland Fellowship.

***Bookings for 8 August are open next Friday from 10am until 3pm.
Telephone 07851 591 503. This may be the last time we are required
to book - look out for the Scottish Government update on Tuesday.***

Sunday 1 August – Pentecost 10 (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: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12; Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35.

Sunday's hymns are: 130 Ye servants of God; 87 Lord from the depths to thee I cried; 486 'Forgive our sins as we forgive' (tune: Stroudwater); 187 There's a wideness to God's mercy.

Our Sunday reflection will be based on 2 Samuel 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

(saying together...)

O God, who makes all things new,
new stars, new dust, new life;
take my heart,
every hardened edge and measured beat,
and create something new in me.

I need your newness, God,
the rough parts of me made smooth;
the stagnant, stirred;
the stuck, freed;
the unkind, forgiven.

And then, by the power of your Spirit,
I need to be turned toward Love again.
Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER

Generous God, often we do not know what we are looking for.
We are searching and we feel we are lost in a world
which seems to sell everything beside true meaning and love.
You offer us all we need.

Christ is the Bread of Life and all we need to do is to take and eat
and you fill us with more than we can imagine.
We pray for open hearts and minds and that we can be ambassadors of love
proclaiming you Lord of All.

'Have mercy on us O God' according to your steadfast love.
Not according to our calculus of loyalty;
not according to our balance sheet of favours and of wrongs;
not according to our zero-sum supply of compassion and grace
but according to your free-flowing love.

Cleanse us from our sin according to your abundant mercy.
Almighty Father, do not hold grudges,
or remember our past, of when we fell from grace,
of when we chose the wrong path,
or that which defines us by our worst mistake.

Wash away every stain, every smudge, every glaring flaw.

Where we have gone wrong we remember,
moving from the sub-conscious to the conscious,
no matter how often we try to bury it.

Create in us a clean heart filled with steadfast love,
overflowing with mercy, ready to forgive as you forgive
and as often as you forgive,
delighting only in life and companionship.
Restore us to the joy of your salvation not according to merit
but to your will.

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

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, you spoke to your people in the pillar of the cloud as they walked together in the wilderness. Speak to us through your Word today, that we may hear you calling us out of the wilderness places in our lives and into new places you have promised to show us. AMEN



REFLECTION

"Thump" was the noise of the car as it ran into the back of the one in front. Pam had had to brake suddenly, as the driver in front of her dilly-dallied and decided at the last moment to turn into Clarence Gardens. Pam stopped in time (excellent driver that she is...passed her test first time... can park in a tight spot...) ... but the youngster behind her, in some flashy German car, did not. Though the resident made a sudden manoeuvre and failing to signal at all, it was quite clear who was to blame, whose fault it was, even although insurance details were exchanged. The positives? Everyone was okay... and oh, it wasn't my car!! At least the young lad did not try to deny responsibility. Nor did he try to justify his actions, it was, as he admitted, his fault. As human beings we are masters of justification. When we make mistakes, when we hit each other's bumpers, when relationships diminish, we have this enormous capacity to blame someone else

or something else and absolve ourselves of any responsibility. We say, "It's not our fault. He should have been looking where he was going. It was an accident."

As we look at a changing Church, a Church weaker but hopefully there lies its strength, we can play that game too. We can blame the way society is today. We can point to the Church resting in its laurels in the 1950's believing that it 'had made it'.

We can point to individuals who are selfish and then internally justify where the Church is by saying, 'It's not our fault.' By shifting the blame, or manipulating the evidence, we make things right – we justify ourselves for the position we are in. We are actually quite good at it.

And so was David.

'It was the spring of the year' so the writer tells us, 'the time when kings go into battle' but King David stayed at home in Jerusalem. Maybe he was nursing an injury, a pulled calf muscle perhaps, and his physician had told him, 'you need to rest up', whatever. Whilst other kings went to battle, David stayed at home.

And there, as others fought, David took a stroll in the palace to stretch those pained muscles and he saw from the roof a woman bathing. There he decided that he wanted her and when he woke up in the morning he realised the mistake that occurred. Without elaboration, the author of the story tells us that Bathsheba returned home.

What happened afterwards is an example of the justifications we make to claim that our actions were correct. He may have blamed the injury; he may have blamed Bathsheba for bathing in the sunshine; he may have blamed her for being so beautiful – and for these reasons, and more, it was an accident and it shouldn't have happened... and it wasn't really his fault.

But when Bathsheba sends a message to tell David she is with child, David tries to cover his tracks and by doing so only makes the matter worse. He invites Uriah home to spend some time with his wife but he is too loyal a soldier to leave his troops and stands in solidarity with his men. Eventually David orders that Uriah be sent to the front line and the inevitable happens and Uriah is killed.

It is sometime later that Nathan the prophet comes to tell David of the story of two men: one who was rich and the other poor. The rich man takes the poor man's only lamb and served it to an overnight guest and then the prophet asks David, 'What do you think that man deserves?'

David was livid. David was furious. David was angry. 'The man deserves to die' he said.

Nathan replied, 'You are that man.'

It was at this moment we are told, that the words of Psalm 51 formed in the mind of David –

'Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love.

Because of your great mercy, wipe away all my sins!

Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin.

I recognise my faults.'

A 97th supporter who attended Hillsborough all those years ago and when the disaster happened, the police said they were not to blame and ever since, families have been fighting for justice, someone to admit they were wrong, someone not justifying their actions, someone to admit their guilt.

And at the conclusion of the Psalm, David records the words that God wants to

hear from us – not excuses, not denials, not passing the buck, or blaming someone else or the whole world but genuine remorse and repentance seeking forgiveness.

'My sacrifice is a humble spirit,' David claims.

How often have you and I said, 'It is not my fault. I was minding my own business. It has nothing to do with me. She did it. He did it. They did it.' We shift the blame, manipulate the evidence, deny the truth.

For that bump in Clarence Drive, the situation was resolved quickly. So much so, since there was no apparent damage, the young lad breathed a sigh of relief. I suppose that's what David is trying to teach us. When accidents occur, when we make mistakes, when we do things wrong, when we sin, yes sin, we can make things right between God and ourselves not by offering excuses, not by shifting the blame but like that young lad with the bashed BMW and bashed pride say, 'I'm sorry.'

As Elton John once sang, 'Sorry, seems to be the hardest word.'

Last Sunday we reflected on the fact that we asked God daily for bread and we should live for that day with the sustenance God gives us. Likewise, daily and in our Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness. We admit our mistakes in front of the One who knows and loves us just the same.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Almighty Giver of All Good Gifts:

Grow in us the wisdom to know that all we have to give is in our hands only because you have given to us first.

Remind us that you have called us in Christ

to be gentle, patient, and loving – and at one with your children everywhere.

May the gifts we have been given and the gifts we share reflect the debt of our gratitude for your many blessings.

We pray this in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. AMEN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

"The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord."

On everything that we build,

we build on him –

all others are sinking sands.

So we pray to you

to whom that foundation and cornerstone was laid

for whom the heaven's shout and in whom justice is promised.

For the overwhelmed to know hope,

for the cowardly to know culpability,

for the threatened to know sanctuary,

build us up Lord,

build us up.

For those deemed weak

to loosen the bonds imposed

by those deemed powerful

for relief from false defences
and armour that does not fit love
for the wisdom not to fear giants
build us up Lord,
build us up.

For deliverance from evil
and for strength to resist
until such deliverance comes,
for a song of courage
that boasts in you Lord, your faithfulness,
and marches in community
build us up Lord,
build us up.

For wide open hearts to rebuke the torrential storms
and live at peace with all people
we pray to you Lord God,
for you are building a people of power and a people of praise
build us up Lord, make us strong Lord
we pray to you by whom the giants fall
for whom the stars swoon
in whom the wicked are exposed. AMEN

BENEDICTION

Go now in peace,
for Christ has called you to live in peace
among your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Go now in courage,
for Christ has called you from the places of your life
to be agents of redemption and partners in healing.

Go now in joy and thanksgiving,
for Christ is our light!

Go now as one body,
to love and serve God as you love and serve the world!
And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you
always. AMEN