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Broomhill Hyndland  
Parish Church

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*"Lighting the Way"*

for Sunday 21 February 2021

Dear friends,  
welcome to another Sunday service.

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'

Kevin turned around to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'

Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday have now passed and we have entered the Lenten season. Certainly our reading this morning, taken not from the Lectionary but found in all the Synoptic Gospels, is the story of Jesus and the Temptations. Who would want to be Jesus then? As he journeys to the Cross, the truth is that the disciples don't fancy being Jesus and neither do we.

But that's the task in front of us daily, trying to live like Jesus.

Can I thank Ann, Jen and Donald for their support for the Gillies family in their preparation of the Kingsborough Gardens Sanctuary for the funeral of Jean, which took place on Thursday. Similarly I know that many of you will be thinking of the Hamilton family, especially on Friday past, for Margaret's funeral, and this week, of the Patrick family, for Anna.

Your prayers and your support really lift the families and they lift me too, knowing that it's the church community, holding each other in their arms and giving solace.

'You be Jesus!' It sounds more of an exclamation than a chance to take on a new role. He is one of us, born as one of us - it's just harder the other way around.

Every blessing,  
George

**Sunday 21 February - Lent 1 (Year B)**

For those who like to follow all the lectionary readings for this Sunday they are: Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15.

For those who miss the hymns I have added them in here. Sunday's hymns are: 556 I need thee; 645 I'm not ashamed to own my Lord; 641 Seek ye first; 547 What a friend we have in Jesus.

In the Zoom services you'll find the words on the screen – so, in the safety of your own home, sing along!

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**

God of the wilderness,  
your Spirit leads us to face the truth, unprotected and exposed:  
in our times of trial help us to resist the worship of empty power,  
so that we may find our true food in Jesus Christ, the broken bread.  
Amen.

### **MUSIC FROM RAZVAN**

#### **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

Loving Lord,  
at the beginning of this Lenten season  
we are met with the challenge of handing over  
every bit of our lives that do not come from You.  
To rid ourselves of what clutters our lives,  
and all that distracts us from the simple truth  
of Your love for us.

Your prophets have called us to change the way we worship;  
to make internal sacrifices instead of external ones;  
to seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with You each and every one of our days.

If we don't give anything up for Lent,  
then let us at least give up this:  
that we might cease living in ways that disconnect us from You,  
for every one of our steps is like a circle around Your temple.  
Perhaps this Lent we can give up our way  
and give ourselves to Your way for us.

So lead and guide us on this Lenten way.  
May we walk with Jesus toward the hill just outside of Jerusalem.  
May we, like Him, take up our cross and follow,  
spending each moment of our lives living responsively to You,  
just as Christ Himself did.  
For that is the faithful way.

(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 Luke 4: 1-13  
'This is the Word of God. Thanks be to Him.'

...and now a hymn to sing along to, as we contemplate the readings.

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, whose glory touches and transfigures the mind and the material;  
whose intimate gentle Spirit embraces our vulnerability and fills our empty spaces  
with hope, may we know the deep calm that only you can give. Through the  
mystery of absence and presence come fill us with your eternal silence. AMEN

### **REFLECTION**

'The little boy stood outside Woolworths.

Looking through the window, he could see the counter that had brought him  
there – the toy counter, and the AirFix models and the packs of the armies from  
around the world.

In he went, to admire the different sets which would add to the games of war  
he played.

He opened a box – they wouldn't miss a few soldiers. If he just closed his palm  
and then ran...'

I have been thinking about the things I have done wrong in my life and the story  
of a temptation of theft came back to haunt me. Yes, I was that little boy!!

But the more I thought...

I remembered the days when football programme sellers used to sell the match  
magazine out of boxes... I remember waiting to see the seller distracted, counting  
out the change, that was the time to dip in to his box...

heaven forbid...

... my thoughts went on...

The more I thought, the more the flagellation... was I a wee rascal when I was  
a youngster... and I hadn't even reached adulthood?

That's why I turned back from Mark's explanation of Jesus' temptations to  
Luke's. In Luke you will find the line:

'When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, HE LEFT HIM FOR A  
WHILE.'

Memories are positive and negative, tucked away in the filing cabinets of our  
mind. Depending on our retrieval system, we'll remember where we put our  
glasses, what we went upstairs for and our partner's birthday.

There are other times,

usually inconvenient, usually unbidden,

when chunks of the past fall like loose mortar from our house that's built on  
sand. Memory then becomes a disservice, recalling incidents and happenings

from a childhood and a long time ago.

'He left him for a while', that's what Luke wrote.

What about you and me? Think, even for a moment, when you strayed from the path, made the wrong choice, said the wrong thing, had companionship with the wrong people.

As we enter Lent what is important to me is that the temptations of Jesus never leave him: to do God's work the easy way, to call on the angels, to use power that humility, to sell his soul to the devil.

Mel Gibson's film, 'The Temptations of Christ' cleverly has the devil appearing throughout His ministry, in the Garden of Gethsemane, right up to the Cross. If it happens to Jesus then it happens to us all, that choice to do it our way, to know what is true and right but do the opposite anyway.

I look back, thinking, 'Oh, there were just a few as a child' but the more I thought, the more the list grew and I was too much of a coward to try and open the file that said, 'adulthood.'

We all need Lent to look inwardly and when we look we sometimes get a surprise. I have been re-reading, lately, the collection of works by the late David Ogston, who was a broadcaster, writer and minister who died in 2008. Interestingly, David suffered a breakdown, his wilderness if you like. He concluded that without his breakdown he would 'not have met himself.' What does it mean to be human, to know ourselves truly through and through? He wrote: 'Climbing out of the abyss has meant for me learning to like not being perfect.'

There lies my reasoning for Luke to include these words 'for a while.'

Not only do we need Lent, we need the wilderness to understand who we really are, not to whip ourselves or travel on a never-ending guilt trip, but to recognise that in our humanity we are not perfect, we make mistakes, we get things wrong, we listen to the wrong voices, we are tempted by the wrong things.

And it happens throughout our lives. Many a time I have stood in a care home and the keyboard strikes up the hymn, 'Yield not to temptation' and those residents will sing along, not just because the hymn is part of their memory, but because in their lives they have realised that temptations follow all the way – sitting longer in the Jordanhill train than you should;

realising an item has been priced wrongly but your lips remain closed.

We've all been there, in one way or another.

I remember being out with a group of guys in a Chinese restaurant and they all made a dash out of the door without paying the bill! Me, you ask? Did little, naive, green George run or sit there, like a rabbit caught in the headlights?

'Yield not' we might sing, but yielding is easy and Jesus knows it.

Tested for 40 days, parched, hungry, scorched by the sun, Jesus was tempted, no doubt about that, to use his divinity to win over his humanity but he did not capitulate.

He did not surrender, for surrendering would come later, on the Cross, on His Father's terms.

But for the next three years, after the wilderness, believe you me, the tempting continued. So Lent, for me, is looking inward and backward in memories where I slipped up and also where I got it right and did not cede. If Lent is about 'giving up', I reflect on the positives of not giving up in what God has taught me and guided me and what he has also forgiven me for. Then, I can make steps towards the Cross, knowing that Jesus has been there before me.

'He left him for awhile.'

And a God who stays the course.

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

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Holy God, as we continue in the journey of Lent,

give us a will of repentance,

a mind of sacrificial love, and a heart of gratitude.

Indeed, you are "gracious and merciful, slow to anger,

and abounding in steadfast love..."

We offer our gifts and our whole selves,

asking that you might strengthen us for the journey,

in the name of Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

For forty days

Jesus was in the wilderness –

there he was tempted,

there he was enticed and coaxed by the ways of the world.

For forty days –

and though lured, he held firm to the wishes of you Lord God.

For forty days -

and the rest.

It would be a mistake to think

that people's persuasions stopped

when he left that barren land,

that others with the gift of the gab

did not try to convince Jesus of another way.

Temptations are always there –

we pray, as we sang,

help those who yield to these appealing ways,

the things that ruin, the things that get in the way

of a deeper and more fulfilling life.

They are in us all:

wolves of appetite,

snakes of deceit,

scorpions of anger and will,

vultures of regret,

the lion of unworthiness

that stalks unseen.

Father,

we pray for all who have temptations,

all who fight the battle in their daily lives.

Help them and help us all to learn to live with each other –

the ways of the world and the man called The Way,  
to learn their words and actions,  
to become savvy,  
to have the know-how,  
to have that sense and savoir-faire.

What gets in the way of perfect love?  
What distorts wisdom and vision?  
What inhibits kindness and courage?

In all days, 40+,  
hold us strong,  
guide us through this Lenten time  
so that when the cross comes  
we are there, for you and with you.  
AMEN

## **SENDING HYMN**

### **BENEDICTION**

Not all is as it seems:  
there is a glory hidden in everything  
waiting to be revealed  
to the eyes of those who believe  
beyond what seems inevitable to those  
who do not want to live in the status quo,  
but in the promises of God.

Hold onto the vision  
as we turn towards Lent  
and walk the more difficult path:  
there is yet a greater glory  
still to be revealed.

Go in peace,  
Go in hope,  
Go in love.

Go in Peace... and May the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**SIT MOMENTARILY, AND LET GOD'S PRESENCE ENCIRCLE YOU AS YOU LISTEN  
TO RAZVAN, AS WE DO IN THE SANCTUARY**

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