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**Broomhill Hyndland  
Parish Church**

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“Lighting the Way”

for **Sunday 17 October 2021**

This week we welcome Julie Campbell to our homes through these Reflections, and to our pulpit on Sunday. We have enjoyed Julie's input both before lockdown, and also via Zoom when we were unable to be together in person.

While George is on holiday any urgent pastoral concerns should be addressed to Gordon, our Session Clerk.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday 18 Oct	Guild (open to all)	Naseby	2.30pm
Saturday 23 Oct	Quiz Night	Kingsborough	7.00pm
Sunday 24 Oct	Morning Worship	Naseby	10.30am
Monday 25 Oct	Funeral	Naseby	12.00pm
Wednesday 27 Oct	WD40	Kingsborough	2.00pm
Thursday 28 Oct	Heart for Art	Naseby Halls	2.00pm
Sunday 31 Oct	National Giving Sunday	Naseby	10.30am
Sunday 7 Nov	Youth Parade	Naseby	10.30am
Wednesday 10 Nov	WD40	Kingsborough	2.00pm
Sunday 14 Nov	Remembrance	Naseby	10.45am

The deadline for articles for the **November 2021** issue of the **Church Magazine** is close of worship next Sunday.

**Sunday 17 October – Pentecost 21 (Year B)**

**CALL**

Come, now is the time to worship  
Come, now is the time to give your heart  
Come, just as you are to worship  
Come, just as you are before your Servant King  
Come.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Servant King, from heaven you came,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life so that we might live.

What does that mean for us?  
What does that ask of us?

Jesus, our Servant King, all too often we lose sight of your greatness.  
Our images of and assumptions about you are often obstacles  
between us and the real thing  
and we miss opportunities to serve you.

Yet, you grant grace upon grace,  
and even although we lose sight of who we are  
and what we can be,  
settling for less than our hearts desire,  
you keep serving us with moments in our lives to bring us back:  
to bring us back to life, life in all its fullness.

We come into your presence,  
yearning to learn how to serve.  
We so often fill the space with words,  
yet you ask us first to -  
Be silent.  
Be Still.  
Empty.  
Say nothing.  
Let Him look upon you.  
Jesus knows.  
Jesus understands.  
Jesus loves you  
with an enormous love,  
and only wants  
to look upon you with that love.  
Be still.  
Just Be.

For it is here in the solitude of our silence we are close to you, Jesus.  
For we know, in quiet wordlessness, the truth of our longings, the unspoken  
yearnings of our soul and from here the wellspring of all we do and all we can be  
is born.

Jesus of the silent times, we are speaking with You now.

*Listen to music, CH4 550 As the deer pants for the water .*

Hear our prayer as we say together the words that you taught us:

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, forever, AMEN.

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord. Amen.

## **REFLECTION**

Earlier this year, we went off on a family campervan holiday to Arisaig and the Isle of Harris and Lewis. As we packed up the van, Ross revealed his latest purchase, a surfboard.

Now, apart from me questioning how on earth are we were going to fit that into the campervan along with everything else, I thought, a surfboard? You've never surfed in your life and then the words rolled off my tongue, is this your midlife crisis?!

Midlife crisis! You know I don't why I even said that, because I'm not sure that's really a thing.

A crisis is intense, short lived and easily identifiable and I'm not even really sure it's a midlife thing. But I am sure it's a thing.

Perhaps less a crisis and more an unravelling, perhaps less midlife and more lifelong. But something sparks the unravelling to begin.

For us it's unlikely to be a trip into space, seeing the curvature of the earth from a capsule window! William Shatner, aka Captain Kirk, said on his return to earth on Wednesday, "It was unbelievable, I hope I can retain what I feel right now"

For us the unravelling may be, a birthday, a diagnosis, an anniversary, a death, a conversation, the climate crisis, COVID 19, the reality facing our Kirk?

Maybe it's in these moments, when Jesus, gently places His hands on our shoulder, pulls us close in and whispers in our ear, "What do you want?"

This is the most incisive, piercing question Jesus can ask of us for our answer shapes what we do next.

It is the question buried underneath almost every other question Jesus asks us "Will you come and follow me" is another version of "What do you want", as is the fundamental question Jesus asks Peter: "Do you love Peter?"

This is the most incisive question Jesus can ask of us because we are what we love, we are what we want. Our wants and longings and desires are at the core of our identity, the wellspring from which our actions and behaviour flow.

Take the climate crisis. Now this is a crisis, intense, short lived and easily identifiable. I attended a conference online this year, the head of policy for Christian Aid and Tearfund said we must act. For the sake of the earth, for the sake of God, for the sake of our neighbour and for the sake of ourselves. Give, Act and Pray, the solution given as to what we and the church can do.

I worked for Tearfund in 2005, 16 years ago and that was the solution then too. We have so much more knowledge now: David Attenborough is on our TV every night. Yet, I wonder if there is still a gap between what we know and what we do.

If you read Paul's prayer to the Christians in Philippi too quickly you might think Paul is praying that they would deepen their knowledge so that they will know what to love, how to serve.

But look again. Paul's prayer is the inverse: he prays that their love might abound more and more. Paul tells us that if we are going to discuss what really matters, discern what to do next, how to serve, then the place to start is by attending to our loves.

So, at that conference I said, "Perhaps the place to start is asking: Do you love the earth? Do you love God? Do you love your neighbour? Do you love yourself?"

Jesus asks James and John, "What do you want" and I'm sure we can all identify with their answer.

"When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honour next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

James and John's answer completely lacks understanding of what Jesus is about and what life is about.

They think Jesus is going to Jerusalem to establish the messianic kingdom by exerting power and authority over the world. Jesus knows he will exert his power and authority to bring in the reign of God by being the suffering servant of the world.

But before we give the sons of Zebedee a hard time, we first need to acknowledge that we all have a bit of Zebedee DNA in us! And the by-product of this DNA is anxiety and fear.

James and John's answer to Jesus' question, "what do you want" is loaded with human emotion: fear of the unknown, desperation for security, the need for affirmation and recognition, the desire for success and applause.

"You don't know what you are asking for". Jesus absorbs everything that they have to say, he doesn't dismiss but instead Jesus pauses on the way to the cross to re-order his disciples, to re-order us, to re-order the world, to re-order the Church of Scotland, to re-order, in order to deal with matters of the heart and..... so the unravelling begins.

We find ourselves on the edge of winter, the nights are fair drawin' in, our days shorter, our nights longer. I love this season as it invites me to slow down and feel my way along.

One of the inventions I love is the blackout blind, when I go to bed there is no difference whether my eyes are open or closed, giving me the best chance of a

good night's sleep..... except when I don't.

We've all been there, you wake up in the middle of night, in the dark and what do you do?

This was indeed a Blankety Blank question last week!

Turn on the bedside lamp, open a book, look at your phone or toss and turn all night until you wake up with all the bedclothes wrapped around you like a bandage.

I remember reading a story about a guy who did just that, his wife tried to get some of the covers back, yanking at them and telling her husband to go back to sleep....

"I can't" he frustratingly whispered, "I think it's God that's bothering me". "Well, God's not bothering me" she said "so get up and pray, but do it somewhere else".

When was the last time you woke up in the middle of the night: Your thoughts and feelings for company?

For each one of us the answer will be different and the emotion different, no two the same, but there will be a common thread. That common thread can capture all the differing answers in just one word, the word is "longing".

The Psalmist tell us that our beds are where we commune with our own heart.

There, in the silence and dark of the wee small hours, our heavenly chaperone knows right where to find us, we are a captive audience, and the presence of God comes to sit with us and asks, "What do you want?" And just like that day with James and John, Jesus carefully listens and takes us into a deeper understanding and walk with him.

For you see, what we are in love with seizes our imagination, it affects everything. It will decide what will get us out of bed in the morning, what we do with our evenings, how we spend the weekend, what we read, who we know, what breaks our heart, what amazes us with joy and gratitude.

In life's journey, vulnerable is the door to authentic, be honest with yourself, God will meet you there. When we deal with matters of the heart, "our midlife crisis" we begin a journey to wholeness, we fall in love and stay in love.

In the end, perhaps we need to ask ourselves, the church needs to ask itself, the world needs to ask itself, how well did you love? Did you love the earth? Did you love God? Did you love your neighbour and did you love yourself?

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

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Ghandi said that the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

O'Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love,

for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. AMEN.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Loving Lord, our hearts ache when we see our world,  
when we look at your church.  
Our hearts ache for the lost souls out there and amongst us here,  
for the lonely, for the hungry, for the grieving.  
Loving Lord, we long for the day  
when your world will be as you want it to be,  
a world in which you lift up the lowly  
and fill the hungry with good things.  
We long for your Church to be spiritually powerful,  
when we are measured not by size  
but by the of depth of our love, our capacity to serve,  
to understand what it might be like to live inside someone else's skin.  
We long to see your creation flourish once more.  
We pray for COP26,  
loving Lord, make this be a moment in history  
and bring change to your earth and to us, the guests who live in it.  
Give us the confidence that such days will come,  
And more than that, give us the resolve to help make it happen.  
And for our loved ones, we bring our longings to you now.  
We ask you hear our hearts longing, we ask in the name of Jesus  
our Redeemer, name above all names. AMEN

## **BENEDICTION**

Barbara Brown Taylor in her book, *An Altar to the World* says,  
"A blessing prayer is called a Benediction. It comes at the end of something, to  
send people on their way. All I am saying is that anyone can do this. Anyone can  
ask and anyone can bless, whether anyone has authorised you to it or not. The  
world needs you to do this, because there is a real shortage of people willing to  
kneel wherever they are and recognise the holiness holding its sometimes bony,  
often tender, always life-giving hand above their heads"

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord and may the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and  
with all those we love.

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