

Issue 12  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
Trinity

# For these days ...

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*‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.’*

**Jesus**

## Lectionary Readings

Genesis 1.1-2: 4a-8

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Matthew 28.16-20

## Hymns

111, ‘Holy, holy, holy’

608, ‘Spirit of truth and grace’

682, ‘Go in grace and make disciples’

Dear friends, we are now into our 12<sup>th</sup> week since this newsletter began and although it may feel a long way off, progress is being made. We are now in Phase 1 of the Governments route map out of isolation and it has been nice to meet up – at a safe distance - with family in the garden. I hope that you are keeping well and have enjoyed some contact with family and friends in recent days too. As always, please keep safe and do not hesitate to be in contact if there is anything you need – even if it’s just to hear another voice at the end of the phone. For those online there are different ways to stay connected – through Sunday worship, Zoom catch ups, a fortnightly quiz and quiz sheet, mini youth group and messy church fun and a weekly prayer meeting on a Thursday. Indeed, the link for this weeks prayer gathering is at the bottom of the page. In addition to Facebook and our dial-a-service, there is also the opportunity to watch the service on Youtube (link below) and DVDs are available for those who do not have internet access – please spread the word. If you would like any information about anything I have mentioned, give me a call or drop me a line – I’d be delighted to help. With love and blessings, Ruth

## Prayer

Jesus said,  
‘You will receive power when the Holy spirit comes upon you,  
And you will bear witness for me.’  
Let us pray.

Holy, holy, holy God,  
We come to worship you as Maker of heaven and earth,  
In whose image all are made.

We come to praise you as Saviour,  
The one who breaks the power of death and offers new life.

We come to celebrate you as Sustaining Spirit,  
The one who is always with us, even to the end of time.

As we do so,  
 We pray that as we open your Word,  
 You would open our hearts,  
 That we might turn our eyes towards Jesus,  
 catch a glimpse of your mystery and wonder,  
 find our place in the story and know deeply,  
 In faith and doubt,  
 That you are God who loves us and calls us to go,  
 And live full lives overflowing with love.

Forgive us our prejudice and pettiness,  
 Our selfishness and indifference,  
 And stir within us, O God.

Still our worries,  
 Quieten our fears,  
 Banish our exhaustion,  
 And fill us with your life giving spirit that we might be refreshed and  
 love as Jesus loves.  
 Maker,  
 Saviour,  
 Sustaining Spirit,  
 Hear our prayer,  
 Amen.

## Reading

Matthew 28:16-20 New International Version (NIV)

### The Great Commission

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## Reflection

For weeks and weeks now, we haven't been able to go on our daily walk without encountering an absolute abundance of dandelions,

gently swaying back and forth in the sunshine. Some of you reading this will consider those dandelions weeds. Pests that are stubborn, popping up at will, and only fit for the bin. Others of you might well think that they are quite useful. After all, they are the first pollinators in spring for butterflies and bees and a beneficial ingredient in tea. I'm not going to argue either way but the image of that ball of seeds has really stayed with me, especially as I watched an excited Grace pick one and then huff and puff and blow the seeds away. It took me back quite a few years to being that age myself and using a dandelion to tell the time!

We are in strange times at the moment and last week I thought that the time of the dandelions had come and gone. Nevertheless, as we scanned the freshly cut grass in the park, we spotted one and I think it is an image worth pondering on the other side of Pentecost. That is the day in the Christian calendar when we remember the wind of the Holy Spirit that moved through and among a waiting people, who were then energised to go and share the good news of Jesus. We don't have that story at the end of Matthew, but we do have 11 disciples gathered together in Galilee. It was the place where Jesus' ministry had started and the place where Jesus had told them to go and wait on the mountain. The site where temptations had been resisted, prayers had been uttered and sermons and stories shared. Jesus meets them and we are told that some worship and some hold back in hesitation and doubt, perhaps not quite believing their eyes. Then Jesus told them, commissioned them, to go into the world and make disciples – learners - baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teach others what Jesus had taught them. As they did so, they were to know that Jesus would be with them always.

Of course, we have to be careful when reading this text. I'm pretty sure that Jesus was not advocating making folks disciples against their will or by force; that would be the antithesis of love. I'm confident though that Jesus did want them and us to go. Go, in God's name, and spread the stuff of love: justice, kindness, mercy, hope and speak truth to power, as surely as the dandelion in the wind spreads seeds.

It goes without saying that not everything that is done in God's name is good or loving or just and not everyone who stands in front of a building holding a bible is following Jesus commandments. To know those, you have to open the bible and read it, and even then, that's no guarantee that we are going to get it right. Yet, it's a start, for we are learners, surely hoping to learn more about Jesus and his ways, and if we open our hearts and make love the starting point and centre, then hopefully we won't go too far wrong.

I've been thinking about that a lot this week, in light of those images of Donald Trump standing outside a Washington Church with his bible and the horrendous video of George Floyd, and his breath slowly being taken from him as a police officer knelt on his throat. Jesus said go

and teach them what I have commanded you - just what did he teach? Well, amidst all the words and stories, what stands out for me is Jesus' words when asked what the greatest commandment is. Jesus replied, 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.' Such a call isn't about being nice or nicer, it is the hard work of loving. This is the radical way of Jesus that seeks to turn the world upside down and we pledge to be a part of that every time we pray thy Kingdom come, your will be done, Lord, on earth as it is in heaven.

As the disciples stood on the edge between what had been and what would be, so too do we. Like the dandelion, stubbornly popping up and blowing in the wind, may we be swayed by the Spirit and enlivened and energised by God's life-giving breath, to go, in all our faith and doubt, fear and excitement, and spread the seeds of the good news of Jesus: justice, kindness, mercy, hope and peace, trusting that Jesus is with us always, even to the end of time.

## Prayer

Loving God,  
 In these strange days,  
 When we are swayed in all sorts of directions,  
 experience a whole range of emotions,  
 see and hear things that fill us with despair,  
 And long for the time of isolation and distancing to be over,  
 Come and remind us that you are near,  
 And fill us with a longing for your Kingdom,  
 As we pray, this day, for our world.

Where hatred is sown,  
 May seeds of love overpower.

Where racism and prejudice take root,  
 May acceptance overwhelm.

Where unfairness sprouts,  
 May justice thrive.

Where despair chokes,  
 May hope blossom.

Where fear stifles,  
 May peace flourish.

Wherever life is threatened,  
 May the purposes of your kingdom be known and grown,  
 So that one day the whole earth will cry glory –

Until then,  
 Through us,  
 uphold the sick,  
 Comfort the grieving,  
 Lift up and help the oppressed,  
 And speak truth to power,  
 And fill us with your heavenly fire,  
 As in the silence we offer our prayers to you –

*Silence*

God,  
 In whose image all are made,  
 to whom all lives matter,  
 And in whom all find their beginning and end,  
 Hear us as we pray,  
 For we ask it all in the name of Jesus,  
 Who taught us to pray together saying:  
 Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name ...

### **Closing Thought ...**

We've now been in lockdown for enough weeks to be able to know that the expenditure for both congregations greatly outweighs the income. This was to be expected, not least as a consequence of there being no collection of free will offerings. Can I once again encourage you to fill and keep your envelopes and for those who would like to know more about standing orders and gift aid to contact our Treasurers at Waterfront and Dalmuir Barclay.

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0141 941 3317 or 07557657079

**Dial-a-service** 0141 278 6595

**Dalmuir Barclay Youtube channel**

[https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_BhuF4R1qhDDEbopduSgHA](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC_BhuF4R1qhDDEbopduSgHA)

**Clydebank Waterfront Youtube channel**

[https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCf0B0U\\_dcvlCN7UrSHS7ghQ](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCf0B0U_dcvlCN7UrSHS7ghQ)

Topic: **A time to pause for prayer ...**

Time: Jun 11, 2020 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86893255704?pwd=RXFKdGdQT0RwRk9FckhrRUdKeEp3dz09>

Meeting ID: 868 9325 5704

Password: 572265