

Issue 13
14th June 2020

For these days ...

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 18. 1-15, (21.1-7)

Psalms 100

Romans 5.1-8

Matthew 9.35-10.8

Hymns

204, 'I am the Church!'

360, 'Jesus Christ is waiting'

237, 'Look forward in faith'

Dear friends, we are now into our 13th 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 Government's route map out of isolation and it has been nice to meet up – at a safe distance - with family in the garden. All going well, this week, we will enter Phase 2. 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 week's 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

In uncertain and ever changing days,
It is good to remember that you are God,
Who has made us for life.
God who has given us a beautiful creation to marvel at and enjoy,
God who through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus,
has made it abundantly clear,
That there is a room enough for everyone in your love.

And so we thank you for your love,
So freely given,
We thank you for the hope,
We are called to share.
And we thank you for the faith that sustains and grants us peace,
Especially in times of trouble.

As we prepare to turn to your Word today,
 we say sorry for the ways in which we have failed and neglected to be
 your people,
 and pray that as we listen,
 your Spirit might move within us,
 assuring us of your forgiveness and grace,
 and stirring up inside us a desire to follow wherever you lead,
 fill us with compassion,
 grant to us wisdom and vision,
 and give us all courage to see the part you are calling us to play in the
 life of your church.
 We ask it all in Jesus' name,
 Amen.

Reading

Matthew 9:35-10:8 Good News Translation (GNT)

Jesus Has Pity for the People

³⁵ Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. ³⁶ As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. ³⁸ Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

The Twelve Apostles

10 Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

The Mission of the Twelve

⁵ These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns. ⁶ Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of

Israel. ⁷ Go and preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is near!' ⁸ Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid.

Reflection

We are in phase 1 out of lockdown,
 And this week,
 All going well,
 We'll head into phase 2,
 But hand washing,
 Keeping our distance,
 Limiting our contact with others,
 Will still be absolute necessities -
 For staying safe and minimizing risk is still essential –
 To keep others and ourselves well.

It's risk that I've been thinking about a lot this week,
 Partly because when I've been out and about on foot,
 I regularly pass a street a short distance away,
 That has a sign that catch my eye –
 Risk Street.

We take risks every day.

The petrol light comes on ...

Something in the fridge is out of date ...

We meet someone new,
 Someone we really like,
 But our heart has been broken before,
 And we have to weigh up if this person, this time, is worth the risk.

Most of us like to think things through,
 Take our time,
 Plan things well,
 make sure that what we are about to do is wise and worth it–
 And that's no bad thing,
 Especially when it comes to our health,
 our relationships,
 and the things we invest in.

This week though,
 Risk has been in my thoughts for another reason,
 As I've mulled over the gospel reading.

On reading it through,
 The thing that really struck me,
 Was just how risky this all was –

Not only on the part of Jesus,
But also the disciples.

Here they were,
A most unlikely group of people –
Including a tax collector –
Whom nobody, ordinarily, really wanted to be around,
A Zealot,
Who could probably start an argument in an empty house,
And a traitor,
Who would go on to betray no other than Jesus himself.

Surely this was a risky bunch of folk,
Not only to put together,
But to commission to go out and teach and care and heal.

And not only that,
But surely it was a risky calling for those disciples too –
To go and do what Jesus had done,
Taking little with them for the journey,
And relying almost solely on the provision of goodwill and God.

A risky business for sure –
One that might and indeed did cost many their life -
But one founded on faith,
And grounded in the love and call of Jesus.

Jesus,
Who went through the towns and villages,
And when he saw those who were harassed and helpless,
Is moved deep within.

His heart breaks,
He has pity/compassion on them –
And isn't content to sit back and do nothing.

And so he tells his disciples to pray to the God of the harvest for
workers,
And then he makes them the answer to their own prayer,
And sends them out to go and follow his example.

Not to go to the gentiles or the Samaritans,
But to their own.

This troubled me a little this week –
Why not everyone –
Especially in light of the words we read last week,
About going and making disciples of all the world.

There's a few reasons I could give you why Matthew writes this,
But the one that really hit home,
Was when I read these verses from the Message:

It says,

‘Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:
 Don’t begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers.
 And don’t try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy.
 Go to the lost,
 Confused people right here in the neighbourhood.
 Tell them that the kingdom is here.’

For sure,
 The good news of God’s love is for everyone –
 Jesus died and rose again for the world –
 But sometimes the hardest,
 The riskiest place to share that news,
 Is right here,
 In our own town,
 Among the people we know,
 And the strangers we meet.

The harassed and the helpless,
 Who seem especially lost in these uncertain days.

Might it be,
 That now,
 More than ever,
 The church is being called to take a risk –
 A step of faith?

To trust,
 That even in this strange and unknown landscape,
 Our hope is still founded on faith,
 And grounded in the love and call of Jesus.

And that Jesus,
 Who is the head of the church –
 Is calling our names and inviting each and everyone one of us to follow
 and be part of sharing God’s love in action
 with the helpless and harassed,
 even if we feel inadequate,
 inexperienced,
 and unsure,
 and it all seems quite risky?

Might it be,
 That the real risk is to pass up this opportunity
 and settle for something less than we the church were created to be?

The church has left the building.
 God is on the move.
 What might God be saying to us in these days,
 What is God asking us to do?

Some words from Spill the Beans

Sometimes...
 often...
 we need one more sign;
 one more word of reassurance,
 one more affirmation,
 one more marker by which to gauge the evidence of God at work.

It's not so much
 that we are unconvinced by the evidence all around.

It's not that we doubt the presence and the leading of God.

But we question our own preparedness, our own competence,
 our own suitability
 for the task that lies ahead.

We know that God is faithful. The question is: are we?
 Are we up to the task
 of stepping into the unknown; ill-equipped, under-resourced,
 inexperienced?

And if, by some amazing quirk others should journey with us, can we
 keep our nerve,
 remain resolute along the way?

Are we able to keep on discerning and to follow the prompts revealed?

Are we able to bear the burden
 of those who will grumble
 when we cannot chart the territory or the fear of those

who see no need to change direction, or the scorn of those for whom
 the old ways are working just fine?

Do we have the resilience it will take
 to weather the saboteurs,
 not least the doubts and fears within us
 that whisper that we're not fit for the journey?

May the God of infinite wisdom and patience give us one more sign
 against all the odds
 that we are called to this journey now

in faith, in hope and in love.

We are called to step out
 with the God of mission
 who maps out a new path
 and calls us to journey alongside, and who grounds and resources us
 from the depths

showing us in ancient stories
 the way to God's promised future one step, one sign at a time.

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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Dial-a-service 0141 278 6595

Dalmuir Barclay Youtube channel

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC_BhuF4R1qhDDEbopduSgHA

Clydebank Waterfront Youtube channel

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