

Issue 14
21st June 2020

For these days ...

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 21.8-21

Psalms 86.1-10, 16-17

Romans 6.1-11

Matthew 10.24-39

Hymns

154, 'O Lord my God!'

'There are hundreds of
sparrows'

533, 'Will you come and
follow me'

Dear friends, we are now into our 14th week since this newsletter began and although it may feel a long way off, progress is being made. We are now in Phase 2 of the Government's route map out of Lockdown and I heard today that the hairdressers might well be opening sometime between July and August. There is only one thing to say: 'hooray!' 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

Great and Almighty God,
Who is all around us,
Today we come in wonder and thanksgiving,
To give you all the praise.

For you are the Creator of everything,
big and small.

In your love,
No one is left out or forgotten.

For you remember and care for everything that you have made.

The tiniest sparrow.

The flowers in all their variety and colour.
 And each soul that dwells on this planet,
 Is seen and loved and known by you.

As we come in worship,
 To listen for your Word and seek you in our singing and praying,
 May we know your forgiveness,
 As we say sorry the ways we have not lived as your people.

May we know your concern and care for every detail of our lives,
 As we draw near with those things that we keep hidden and secret.

And may we know your grace,
 And all encompassing love,
 So that we might share it with others,
 As we discover today that you are God who has the whole world in
 your caring hands.
 We ask it all in Jesus' name,
 Amen.

Reading

Matthew 10:24-39 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. ³⁰And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

³²“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
 a daughter against her mother,
 a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’¹⁰

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.³⁸ Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me.³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Reflection

A couple of weeks ago me and Grace were out delivering DVDs.

We were heading back to the car and suddenly she said:
 “Mummy, where do we go when we die?”
 Jings, I thought!
 a nice easy question for a Wednesday lunchtime!

Well I said we go to heaven,
 we return to God,
 home to God.

Home to God? she said.

Well, yes,” I said.
 “I believe that God loves us and made us,
 And when we die we go to be with God in his safe keeping.”

There was a pause,
 and then she said,
 “Mummy some people don't have homes,
 maybe we should go to heaven and tell God that he's forgotten some people.”

“I don't think God has forgotten anybody,
 it's we human beings that forgotten to look out and care for one another.”

I then changed the subject and asked her what she wanted for lunch,
 And if she'd like to watch some Paw Patrol as she ate it!

The conversation stayed with me though,
 And I was reminded of it again when I turned to our Gospel dealing for today.

It is a reading that follows on from where we left last week,
 as Jesus Commissions the 12 to go out in his name and minister,
 and in many ways is a hard and an extreme reading,

where we hear not so much about peace,
but about division,
that comes from the decision to follow Jesus.

Jesus is warning his disciples that following him
will not mean that their lives will be plain sailing.
He's reminding them that having faith in God
does not mean that your life is going to be free from suffering.

I don't know where some folks have got that idea from,
the notion that if you have faith in God then everything in the garden
will be rosy.

You only have to look at Jesus life,
The opposition that his teaching aroused,
And ultimately ended in his death,
to know that following him is not going to make for an easy ride.

And that's really what Jesus is saying to his disciples.
he's preparing them for the reality of life in his footsteps.

Today though I don't want to get into the nitty gritty of those closing
verses,
but rather focus on words we hear earlier in the passage,
and I hope that as you listen,
you'll see that that isn't a cop out.

In the Bible there are many phrases that appear over and over again
and in this passage alone there is a phrase that occurs three times:
'Do not be afraid.'

it is said that this phrase,
or slight variances of it,
appears 365 times in the Bible,
and I think that it is a message worth repeating,
and it ties back in with my conversation with Grace.

Jesus says to them do not be afraid of what people will say to you,
how they will treat you,
because the truth will out.

don't be worried about what they can do to you,
how they can hurt you,
which is easier said than done, I know,
but instead be fearful,
have concern about and reverence for,
the one who holds your soul.

The one whom Jesus says cares even about the sparrow.
a common and in those times,
a cheap bird,
that was sold in the market to the poor.

In God's eyes,

Even those whom the world considers to be poor and the least and forgotten,
Are precious.

For the Father who holds each soul,
Has care and concern for each and every person –
And knows every intimate detail,
Even down to the number of hairs on your head.

And so yes,
Suffering may come,
But suffering and pain are not signs that God does not love you –
On the contrary,
We are known in our suffering,
We are loved in our suffering,
We are held in our suffering by the very hands of God.

God who has each name written on His palm,
And will not and does forget anyone.

Therein lies our comfort,
And also our challenge –
Not only to believe that it is true –
To know and trust that we are valued in God's eyes,
And worth more than we can ever imagine,
But to live in such a way that other people know that to be true also for them.

Those who are treated as lesser beings.
those who have no self worth.
Those who tend to be forgotten by society.

Our calling is to follow Jesus,
Trusting that nothing and no one is too small for God to care about,
And that in God's infinite knowledge of and care for us,
We need not be afraid.

Perhaps that is just as hard as those closing words about division and a sword ...

Prayer

Father God,
Who loves us with a mind blowing and unending love,
Today we give thanks for your infinite knowledge of and care for us.

We give thanks for the faith that reminds us that we are yours,
And that you are with us no matter what.

And we give thanks for those who love and value us for who we are,
And in whose company we do not have to hide our true selves,
nor fear judgement.

We pray today for those who feel unloved,
 Alone,
 undervalued,
 forgotten, the grieving and suffering –
 In our community and throughout the world.

Lord, in the silence hear our prayer ...
 Father God,
 Who cares for even the smallest among us,
 May the unloved,
 The lonely,
 The undervalued,
 The forgotten, the grieving and suffering –
 Know that they are remembered by you,
 And have a place in your love,
 And may we, your Church, play our part in making that known,
 As we treat others fairly and kindly,
 Be good stewards of creation,
 And see the value of every human being,
 Regardless of age, race, gender, sexuality, religion, political allegiance,
 or income,
 Trusting that all times, places and people,
 Are made in your image,
 And held in your hand.
 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

Clydebank Waterfront Youtube channel

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCf0B0U_dcvICN7UrSHS7ghQ

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