

**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 28 February 2021**



**COVID-19
Services Online on our YouTube Channel**

HYMN 526 – New ev’ry morning is the love

New every morning is the love
our wak’ning and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiv’n,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heav’n.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we need to ask,
room to deny ourselves, a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

*John Keble (1792-1866) based on Lamentations 3:23
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Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil. For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17.1-7,15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant

between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 4.13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as

dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 369 – Jesu, lover of my soul

Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the gath'ring waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hid me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me. *(continued...)*

All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cleanse from every sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)alt.

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GOSPEL: Mark 8.31-38

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross

and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

It's nearly a year since our first lockdown and I wonder how many of you are missing the church building (as well as the church community)? What makes that space, 'the sanctuary' a sanctuary? What turns it from four walls into a reverent place? Are four walls even necessary? I guess we've learnt over the last year that they are not. So, if the four walls of a sanctuary are not necessary, what is?

To me it is all about one thing. Some have one that is made of rough timber, carved and rustic. Others have a twisted wrought iron one. Some stand twenty feet tall hanging from the ceiling and others are brought in during the processional and taken out again at the end. Many have one that is polished brass with IHS in the middle of it, or some you find painted on woodwork or on stained glass windows.

For me the focal point, which moves a place from being a regular room or location into a sanctuary, is the cross. The cross draws our eyes to the reason we are here and why we worship the God we worship. The cross is the symbol that defines who we are and what God did for us. It encompasses everything. Georgia Harkness, who was the first woman to teach theology in an American seminary said, “The cross [is] God’s way of uniting suffering with love.”

Just think about what this means for a moment and you can tell why it is our central focus. For the Romans the cross was a sign of death, of suffering, and of punishment. Those who were nailed to it were criminals, murderers, traitors. For us it reminds us of pain, glory, suffering, death, hope and love. The images it renders in our head can be intense.

For us the cross represents so much. It tells us what happened to our Saviour and by the end of Lent we will retell the story. A story of suffering. A story of pain. A story of innocence and betrayal. A story of sacrifice and a story of unconditional love. Christ’s cross is the place where our saviour died for our sins. He took all the sins of the world, the ones people committed before him, and ours, and everyone else that will live on this earth. He took all that upon himself in order to be the sacrifice that was needed to be with God again. He did this because he loves us.

This, I believe, is what Jesus was attempting to tell the disciples in the scripture today. But we have a tendency to be like Peter here and have another idea. Peter takes Jesus aside

and reminds him that this may not be the best public relations strategy. Peter had other ideas. Nowadays he might say, “Jesus if you want to pull in the people you need to look at this differently. We need to think about advertising, maybe a commercial alongside a rugby pitch, or a viral video that is catchy like the ones showing cute animals or babies”.

With that Jesus looks at Peter and says, "Get behind me, Satan." The one who turns out to be the foundation of the church, the one who starts it all, Peter the Rock, attempts to tell Jesus what to do and is scolded and called Satan.

There is one thing that we do constantly, that does exactly what Peter does to Jesus. We take this symbol, the cross, place it on our altar, or somewhere else in church, and we leave it there. We say to ourselves that is the place for Jesus. That is where Jesus did his thing. But that is not the case. Then he called the crowd to him, along with his disciples and said: ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’ The cross is not just for Christ but it is what we are called to carry too.

Jesus tells us that we have a cross to carry, it is not just something he does, it is something we are all called to do. That cross is not a burden, it is not a bad relative or situation, it is not something we should dread. The cross we carry looks just like Christ’s. Yes, it is a symbol of sacrifice, pain and suffering, which we are asked to be a part of, but it is also a symbol of love and hope. And we are to carry that symbol of love and hope and be willing to give that love and

hope to all we come in contact with, physically or electronically, especially in these difficult days.

Maybe we would like it to be different. We might say to God today, I'm willing to carry your cross but here are the ground rules. It needs to be comfortable, not too imposing on my current lifestyle, easy to carry, and fashionable. When people see me carrying this cross, I want to be seen as important and put up on a pedestal. I want to be admired for my sacrifice and seen as a saint. I want the easy way out, the one that doesn't require much from me, the one that makes life easier. To that Christ says "Get behind me Satan. Because if you want to become my follower, you must fully take up your cross and follow me."

The choice is yours. Amen.

Revd. Nicki McNelly

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Almighty God, source of all life, we lift our prayers to you this morning, ever hopeful of your mercy, love and compassion.

As we move through the season of Lent towards the pain of Good Friday and the glorious hope of Easter, we give thanks for all the signs of new beginnings and blessings already lifting our spirits each day: the warmer weather, snowdrops and crocus brightening our paths, and the fantastic roll out of the vaccine which many of us have already received. May we be your people of hope in what are still challenging times.

Loving Lord, **Hear us.**

Ever present God, We hold before you church leaders worldwide, and particularly Bishop John, Nicki, Margaret, and Caroline, as they continue to minister in new ways. Give them strength to offer support, insight, wisdom and hope, and may you inspire churches everywhere to continue to find innovative ways of proclaiming your message of love.

Loving Lord, **Hear us.**

Ever loving Christ, we pray for our world, tentatively beginning to look beyond a year of pandemic hardships. We ask for your wisdom and integrity on those powerful leaders making the big decisions - may they consider what is best for all peoples and not just their own. We give thanks for the progress made so far in the vaccination programme and

continue to pray that poorer countries with the least wealth are given equal access to the medications.

Loving Lord, **Hear us.**

Ever healing Lord, We pray for all those who are sick in mind and body. For those suffering the pain of grief, anxiety or isolation. In a moments' quiet we pray for those we know who are in need of your healing touch.

Loving Lord, **Hear us.**

We pray for ourselves at this season of Lent. You call each of us to take up our cross to follow you. This sounds frightening, so give us the courage and grace to resist our own selfish ambitions and cravings, and focus more on you. Help us to be our true selves and follow what we believe to be your will for us.

Heavenly father, accept these prayer for the sake of our savior, Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Wendy Pearson

OFFERTORY HYMN 834 – Will you come and follow me

Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know,
and never be the same?
Will you let your love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you, and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind,
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you, and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside,
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you, and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call your name.
Let me turn and follow you,
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you, and you in me.

*John I Bell (.1949) and Graham Maule (b.1958) ©1987 WGRG, Iona Community
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Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made;
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and
darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a
harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our
Father's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the Cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made. Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory, that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the First-Born, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, St Cuthbert, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to 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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God; you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

A PRAYER FOR US TO PRAY AT HOME:

God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour, who feeds his people and gives them eternal life.

Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Give thanks to our gracious God
Whose mercy endures for ever.

POST COMMUNION

Father, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

