

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
Passion Sunday**

21 March 2021



COVID-19
Services Online on our YouTube Channel

HYMN 437 – Lift high the Cross

*Lift high the Cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!*

Come, Christians,
follow where our Saviour trod,
o'er death victorious,
Christ the Son of God.

Led on their way by this
triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful
praise combine:

From north and south,
from east and west they raise
in growing harmony
their song of praise:

For thy blest Cross
which doth for all atone,
creation's praises rise
before thy throne:

So let the world
proclaim with one accord
the praises of our
ever-living Lord.

George William Kitchin (1827-1912) and Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956) alt.

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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

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write

it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5.5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 820 – When I survey the wondrous cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingling down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an off'ring far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Issac Watts (1674-1748)

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GOSPEL: John 12.20-33

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much

fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Do you remember the Grave talk events we had in the past? Well, last year I decided to listen to my own advice and Iain and I went along to William Purves (other funeral directors are available) to pre-plan and pay for our funerals, as we didn't want to leave that added burden to our daughters. Well, this month, they were finally paid for and we told Anya and Ceri that it is ok for us to die now, as they won't get a bill. It wasn't received well!

Death and dying is not an easy topic for conversation at the dinner table. Yes, we acknowledge death when it happens but for the most part we do not talk about death with any real depth or substance, and certainly no enthusiasm. We don't deal well with it. We deny it. We ignore it. We avoid it. No one wants to die or see a loved one die.

The death of our loved ones is too real, too painful. Our own death is too scary maybe. The relationships and parts of our lives that have died are too difficult. So, for the most part, we just avoid the topic of death. Besides it's a downer in a culture that mostly wants to be happy, feel good, and avoid difficult realities. (Not that we've been able to avoid it this last year, with so many sadly losing their lives to this pandemic).

I suspect the Greeks in today's gospel did not go to Jesus expecting to talk or hear about death. They just want to see Jesus. And who can blame them? Jesus has a pretty good track record up to this point.

He has cleansed the temple, turned water into wine, healed a little boy, fed the 5000, given sight to the blind, and raised Lazarus from the dead.

I don't know why they wanted to see Jesus, but I know the desire. I want to see Jesus. I'll bet you do too. Seeing Jesus will make it all real. After all, seeing, they say, is believing. I'm sure that we all have our own reasons for wanting to see Jesus.

Usually, however, we will want to see Jesus on our terms. We don't want to face the pain of loss and death, in whatever form it comes. Sometimes we want something from Jesus more than we want Jesus himself. There is a real danger that we will become consumers of God, rather than participants in God's kingdom. We pick and choose what we like and want but we skip over and leave behind what we do not like, want, or understand.

Christianity, however, is neither a buffet nor a spectator sport. Christianity means participating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus sets before the Greeks who want to see him.

If we want to see Jesus then we must look death in the face. To the extent we refuse to acknowledge the reality of death, to the degree we avoid and deny death, we refuse to see Jesus. Really looking at, acknowledging, and facing death is some of the most difficult work we ever do. It is, as Jesus describes, soul troubling. It shakes us to the core.

There is a temptation to want to skip over death and get to resurrection. So, it is no coincidence that this week the Church points us towards Holy Week and reminds us that death is the gateway to new life, death comes first.

However, death is not always physical. Sometimes it is spiritual or emotional. We die a thousand deaths every day. There are the deaths of relationships, marriages, hopes, dreams, careers, health, beliefs.

Through Covid there have been deaths due to lack of family contact, physical contact, social gatherings and even church services. Regardless of what it looks like, this is not the end. Resurrection is always hidden within death. There can be, however, no resurrection without a death.

The unspoken fear and avoidance of death underlies all our “what if” questions. What if I fail, lose, fall down? What if I get hurt? What if I don’t get what I want? What if I lose that one I need and love? Every “what if” question separates and isolates us from life, God, one another, and ourselves. It keeps us from bearing fruit. We are just a single grain of wheat. We might survive but we aren’t really alive.

Jesus did not ask to be saved from death. He is unwilling to settle for survival when the fullness of God’s life is before him. He knows that in God’s world strength is found in weakness, victory looks like defeat, and life is born of death. This is what allowed him to ride triumphantly into Jerusalem, a city that will condemn and kill him. That is what allows us to ride triumphantly through life. Triumph doesn’t mean that we get our way or that we avoid death. It means death is a gateway not a prison, and the beginning not the end.

Regardless of who or what in our life has died, God in Christ has already cleared the way forward. We have a path to follow. That path is the death of Jesus. Jesus’ death, however, is of no benefit to us if we are not willing to submit to death, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Ultimately,

death, in whatever way it comes to us, means that we entrust all that we are and all that we have to God. We let ourselves be lifted up; lifted up in Christ's crucifixion, lifted up in his resurrection, lifted up in his ascension into heaven. He is drawing all people to himself, that where he is, we too may be.

He is the source of eternal salvation. 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 and everlasting God, we have just heard St Paul's message to the Hebrews, confirming Christ's promise to his people. "Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Help us, we pray, to heed that message, that we may serve you as best we can, through obedience, love and faith.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your holy spirit which breathes life and love into us all. We pray that it will renew us and possess us, for we know we have love and understanding through its light alone. Strengthen our faith to match that of your disciples, so that we too can overcome our doubts and uncertainties and live to please you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God, on this Passion Sunday, we are mindful both of our Lord's power to regenerate and of the suffering he underwent to become the source of salvation for us sinners. He was your obedient son, who knew his hour had come. Help us to do your will, inspired by the holy spirit, your powerful legacy to us after Christ's death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God, may those who suffer both physically and psychologically find strength, solace and rejuvenation in you. Today we pray for all those who have been affected by the pandemic, both those known to us and those we do not know. We pray, too, for those who have died recently and for their loved ones as they come to terms with their loss. Envelope them in your loving arms.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for all you have taught us and all you have given us: for your representatives here on earth and particularly those who serve in our church, Bishop Bob, Nicki, Margaret and Caroline; for our wonderful world, so beautiful in spring when regeneration is everywhere to see; and for the love, kindness and compassion we witness on a daily basis.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Caroline Seville

OFFERTORY HYMN 521 – My song is love unknown

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake,
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing:
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King:
then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (c1624-1684) alt.

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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 crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; 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.

St Cuthbert's Notes

21 March 2021



Dear Friends,

Just over a year from our first lock down, it gives me great pleasure to let you know that further to the FM's announcement last week, St. Cuthbert's plans to re-open for worship on Easter Day.

To offer a service to everyone who would like to attend, we may have to hold a number of services throughout the day. As it is the first Sunday of the month, the 10.30am service will probably be filled with families, so other possible times are 2pm and 5pm. We cannot hold a dawn service as we are not allowed to have a gathering outside.

Attendance is still under the previous rules of a maximum of 50 attending, socially distanced, using hand-gel on entry and exit, wearing masks, with no singing, Communion in one form only at your seat and a one way system in and out of church.

Could you please let Marie know if you would like to attend, using stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com by the 22nd of March. A decision will then be made on the number and timings of the services needed and Marie will contact you to confirm which service you are to attend.

I appreciate this may not be convenient but I'm afraid it is the best we can do.

If you wish to book for future services, (Wednesday and Sunday 10.30am) please revert to previous methods and book through Marie using the same email above. As we have before, Wednesday will be recorded for YouTube on Sunday. There will be no recording for Easter Day but the Provincial Service will be available on line.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

I wish you a continued Holy Lent.

Love and blessings.

Nicki.

Songs of Praise – This evening – Sunday 21 March 2021 at 6pm:
Join Philip and Nicki (on Zoom) with music, readings and prayers for the Season. We hope you are able to join us and reflect as we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Palm Crosses:

If you do not have a Palm Cross, and would like one, please contact stcuthbertscolinton@gmail.com or Telephone 07305 911986.

Sunday Social on Zoom – Every Sunday at 11am.

It has been wonderful to see so many of you at our Sunday Socials! To find out more about Sunday Social or about joining us by phone, please contact: Wendy Pearson, Patricia Brignall, or Philip Rossiter. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

Lent 2021 – Caring For Our World:

Take a look at the weekly videos on our YouTube Channel and follow our prayers through Lent (found on our 'Families' page on our website www.stcuthbertscolinton.org.uk)

Caroline Daye, Children, Youth & Families Worker

Compline for Holy Week:

Compline for Holy Week will begin on Sunday 28th March at 7pm, a day early, as our Youth Group has asked to lead us in prayer that evening. It would be great if you could support them with your attendance.

Weekly Prayer:

Break into our lives afresh O Lord, that we might experience your love, break into our hearts afresh O Lord, that others may experience your love through us. Amen.