

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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 28 April & Sunday 2 May
2021
10.30am**



*COVID-19
Services in Church and
online on our YouTube Channel*

Welcome to this service, where we are pleased to be able to gather together to worship God. We are only allowed to do this because precautions have been put into place to protect each other as sisters and brothers in Christ during the pandemic. Please follow the guidelines given on the order of service and verbally by the worship leader or welcomers. Face coverings must be worn throughout the service.

Please stand as the clergy enters.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

Please sit

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

HYMN 798 – We have a gospel to proclaim

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suff'ring on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

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.**

Please stand

GLORIA (Said)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

Reading: Acts 8.26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said,

‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

GRADUAL HYMN 349 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid
from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains
high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest,
to both great and small;
in all life thou livest,
the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish
as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish;
but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory,
pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render,
O help us to see
'tis only the splendour
of light hideth thee.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) based on 1 Timothy 1:17
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Please stand

Gospel: John 15.1-8

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

'I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower.....I am the vine and you are the branches.' Just imagine a vine, either growing up a wall or standing proud with others in a field. Imagine roots seeking water deep down, drawing nourishment from the earth, and leaves drawing energy from the sun, turning it in their cells into strength for the whole plant. And finally imagine tendrils reaching out, growing in different directions and fruits forming, filling out, becoming juicy and nutritious. To ensure future good harvests, less fruitful branches are lopped off and productive ones pruned so that they will bear superior fruit.

That's the picture Jesus is painting in our passage from John's Gospel. What's important to realise is that the fruits that form aren't there **just** to show that the vine is productive: they need to be sent out to provide nourishment to others, as food or wine. And this metaphor, of course, as Jesus' makes clear, is referring to ourselves, as disciples, tasked with spreading the good news of the Gospel. We need the support of Jesus, the vine, knowing that we're in God's care, the vinegrower, who'll lop us off as fruitless branches if we fail to spread the Word, in whatever way we're able, **however** small. Just like the owner of the vineyard who must be alert to the opportunities to spread his produce, however unlikely some opportunities might seem to be, so **we** too must grasp opportunities God gives us to show his love as we reach out to others. We can see an example of that in our reading from Acts, when Philip grasps an unexpected chance to help a passing eunuch understand the Scriptures, an act that leads to his baptism.

To dig a bit deeper into this metaphor of the vine, it's vital to realise that unproductive branches, as Douglas Wingeier affirms, aren't outsiders who have nothing to do with the Christian community, but members of that community who **don't** 'bear fruit in love.' As members we need to be in **relationship** with Jesus, as branches are to the stem of the vine. It's the **strength** of that relationship that enables us to bear fruit, that enables us to soak up into the depths of our inner being the love which Jesus, as God's son, has shown us. As we feel that strength, so we become able to reach out and share that love. Without it we flounder, we struggle, we find we've nothing to share and become like branches that have been lopped off the vine.

Yes, it's all about our faith, the strength of it, the trust we have in God, in the love he's shown us through the ministry, death and resurrection of his beloved Son. It's this that gives us the ability to reach out, like Jesus, to those who are struggling in life, the marginalised, the sick, the poor, the depressed. It's this that helps us to **still** cope, to **still** bear fruit, in times of difficulty, times we personally struggle, like the branches of the vine in sudden downpours of rain or an unexpected frost.

But how do we put this into practice? If we think about the vineyard owner, or God as the vinegrower, choices have to be made, choices about how much to prune in order for the vine to flourish. Such decisions aren't easy and for the vineyard owner, often require years of practice and experience. It's equally applicable to us. What do **we** need

to prune from our lives, so that we can strengthen our relationship with our Lord? Too often we're rushing around, as Judith Dimond asserts, acquiring activities, goods, acquaintances and ending up by not doing anything well as we're spread too thinly: in other words **not** being productive. We need to give time to pause, to pray, to deepen our relationship with God and his Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to realise that our **strength** comes from this relationship, and thus our ability to be fruitful and to reach out to others in love. To add to the metaphor of the vine, the words and love of our Lord act like fertilizer, encouraging better growth.

So, as we attempt to deepen our relationship with the God of love, to spread that love shown us in Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection, let us remember Jesus' words: 'I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower.....I am the vine and you are the branches.'

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, help us to examine our consciences, to cut away from our lives the sins and habits that weaken us, and to deepen our relationship with you. Help us thus to be strengthened in faith, even during times of difficulty for ourselves, and so become more diligent as disciples, bearing much fruit, growing in service and serenity, able to reach out in love, both through word and action. Amen.

Revd. Dr Margaret Dineley

(we pause to listen to a short piece of music for personal reflection)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Please stand

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.

Please sit or kneel

INTERCESSIONS

In continuing Easter joy and Living Hope we come to God in prayer - with spoken words and words in our hearts.

Faithful God, we thank you for the beauty and richness of your creation which you have entrusted to our care. Forgive our selfish spoiling. We pray for all who are working towards a better valuing of earth's resources--for world leaders with their recent pledges, for scientists developing new sources of energy and for all making decisions in future climate gatherings. Give them and us insight in how best to change and use your gifts for the worldwide benefit of all.

In Living Hope we pray.

We pray for the life of the world--for places of conflict...Myanmar. For countries struggling to cope with the Coronavirusespecially India. Faithful God, we long and pray for the time when your kingdom will come on earth. We ask for wisdom for world leaders in all the challenges they face. Give them the vision and strength to work for justice, peace and health for all.

In Living Hope we pray.

We pray for Scotland - as we prepare for an election. Faithful God, give to those of us who can vote the discernment to use wisely the choice we have been given. May those elected be men and women of integrity with the love of truth and service for the good of all in Scotland.

In Living Hope we pray.

Faithful God, in whose worldwide church there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, we pray for blessings on all church leaders. Give them a vision for the future. Bless Bishop John, Nicki, Margaret and Caroline as they lead us here. We give thanks for the faith shown by our persecuted brothers and sisters and pray for them.

In Living Hope we pray.

Faithful God, be with all who are ill, in need and who mourn at this time. In our community we hold May Paton and Doreen Gordon before you. We give thanks for the life of Jean Griffiths and remember her family. We name in our hearts those known only to us who need our prayers.

In Living Hope we pray.

Faithful God, by our baptism we are your disciples. May we show the fruits of love and service to all we meet and in all we do.

Faithful God, accept these prayers of words and silence for the sake of your risen Son, our Living Hope.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

As we are not allowed to sing, please reflect on the words of the hymn and enjoy the music as Philip plays the organ.

OFFERTORY HYMN 329 – Lord of the dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
they whipped and the stripped and they hung me on high,
and they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black –
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance, and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me –
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Sydney Carter (1915-2004) ©©1963 Stainer & Bell Ltd
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Please stand

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, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope.

He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in

us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we 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.

Please sit

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, 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, Saint 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.**

INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome to receive.

Music for the sharing of Communion.

Please remain in your seat to receive Communion in one form only. The worship leader will bring it to you. Keep your face covering on until the person bringing the wafer has moved away and then you can lift it to eat the wafer.

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; 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. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

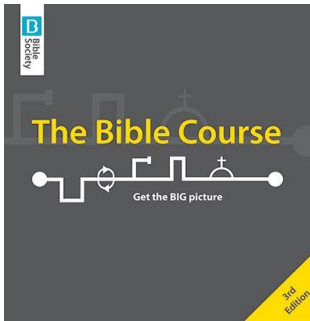


St Cuthbert's Notes 2 May 2021

YouTube:

Join the full service each week online, (recording of the Wednesday service) using this link to our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3iPQOkQiVERjeHZbj2OnBQ>



Monday at 7pm
for 8 weeks commencing
17th May on Zoom

Key features

- *The Bible Course* helps you see how the books of the Bible are part of one big story
- Using a unique storyline, *The Bible Course* will show you how key events, books and characters fit together
- Video teaching, written guides, diagrams and readings will help you grow in confidence as you read the Bible for yourself

Big, complex, old ... just some of the words people use to describe the Bible. Sound familiar? That's where *The Bible Course* comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

Contact Nicki if you would like to join her
on The Bible Course.

Sunday Social:

Join us at our weekly 'Sunday Social' - every Sunday on Zoom at 12 noon. You can also join by telephone. If you would like to join, but not sure how, please contact Nicki or Wendy for the details.

Services in Church:

***PLEASE NOTE ***

As numbers at each service are limited, booking is required to attend.

Bookings can be made:

Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday

10am – 1pm by

email: stcuthbertscomms@gmail.com or

by telephone: 07305 911986

(if no answer, please leave a message).

You will receive an email or telephone call a few days prior to the service to confirm your place.

If you are not booked in, you will be unable to attend.

Thank you.



Weekly Prayer:

Dear Lord, With the children now back at school, we pray that they may be safe and happy and that they become little branches of your true vine by bearing fruit through their love and care for others.

We pray, too, that whatever the outcome of the elections on Thursday, our government may also reflect your will by making decisions that benefit all people, not just a few. Amen.