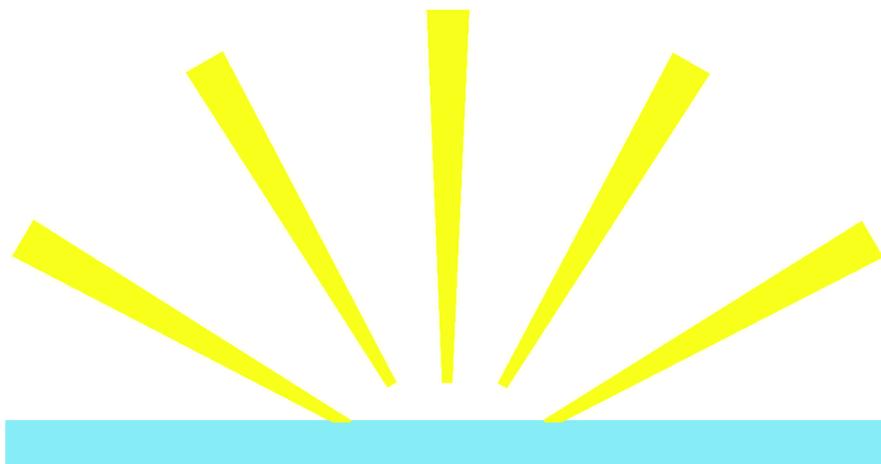


**ST CUTHBERT'S
SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLINTON**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter
Wednesday 5 May & Sunday 9 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 243 – God is love, let heaven adore him

God is love: let heaven adore him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is love, eternal Love.

God is love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that self-same aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the human soul,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides and heals and makes us whole.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.

*Timothy Rees (1874-1939) alt. ©Geoffrey Chapman, an imprint of Continuum
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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

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love towards you that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit

First Reading: Acts 10.44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 5.1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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 4 – A new commandment

*A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

By this shall all know
that you are my disciples
if you have love one for another.

(Repeat)

You are my friends
if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

(Repeat)

I am the true vine,
my Father is the gardener.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

(Repeat)

True love is patient,
not arrogant nor boastful;
love bears all things, love is eternal.

(Repeat)

*v. 1 unknown, based on John 13.34-35
vs 2-4 Aniceto Nazareth, based on John 15 and 1 Cor 13
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Please stand

Gospel: John 15.9-17

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last,

so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

SERMON

Please sit

I wonder how many of us took up new hobbies during the various lockdowns. Cycling, running, mountain climbing? No?! What about playing a guitar, or piano, writing, painting, gardening (that was my effort) or many other things where you can buy what is needed from Mr. Amazon, have it delivered the next day and enthusiastically get on with your new-found love – or not.

I imagine there are many musical instruments, pens and notebooks, paints and gardening equipment now sitting gathering dust. It's all well and good having the interest, the desire, but with most of these hobbies, you have to be taught by someone who knows. No matter how many YouTube videos you watch on the subject, or articles you read on Wikipedia, or even professional sites specifically for learning to play an instrument, paint, or telling you how to identify a real plant from a weed – we all get bored with them and the new-found love is sadly forgotten.

Hopefully though, some have found good teachers on these social platforms and, even if progress is very slow, are persevering, working hard on learning their new skill. Or maybe there was a teacher in their home.

We all need teachers.

And I think in the Gospel reading today, where Jesus is giving us the greatest commandment of all, we also need someone to teach us to do this.

Yes, we all know what it is to love and there certainly are some forms of human love that come close to the love Jesus is guiding us to – self-giving, sacrificial love.

That of a parent to a child is the simplest example. I remember the first time I set eyes on my girls (and my granddaughter). I didn't realise I was capable of loving so much. Nobody needed to teach me that; it was just there; my heart full to bursting, thinking I was responsible for this little human being, so vulnerable and so reliant on me.

Most love, however, is voluntary – even between parents and children as time passes. I'm sure you've all heard the saying, 'you can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family'. Basically, we choose who to love when, and a lot of the time, the love is quite selfish – it's all about what makes us feel good.

In 1960, CS Lewis wrote *'The Four Loves'* which explored the nature of love from a Christian and philosophical perspective.

Where we have one word for love, in Greek there are four words – storge, philia, eros and agape.

Storge is liking someone through the fondness of familiarity – natural, instinctual affection, such as a parent towards their child.

Philia is the love between friends, as close as siblings, in strength and duration. A brotherly/sisterly love bond without the blood link.

Eros is romantic love. The falling in love most dream of as teenagers and we see in romantic or Disney films.

And Agape, unconditional ‘God’ love. The love that exists regardless of changing circumstances.

So, to experience the love that Jesus talks about today; sacrificial agape love, we need a teacher.

Someone who journeys with us, teaching us the basics.

Someone who can teach us how to extend our hearts.

Someone who can tell us when we should speak up and when we should stay quiet.

Someone who can show us that time alone for prayer and reflection is good.

Someone who can show us when sacrificial love is needed and how to give it.

Someone who offers us unconditional love.

We need a teacher who will model for us what it is to live the life that Jesus calls us to. I wonder who that is – who we all have in our lives, as a role model for this perfect, sacrificial love?

As they used to say when I was studying, if you don't know the answer, always say Jesus!

Jesus has shown us how to love in his ministry to the lepers, the sinners, the outcasts. He tells us we should feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty and clothe the naked. Even the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit!

I love that in the reading from 1 John, we are told 'his commandments are not burdensome'. Love really shouldn't be burdensome, and this has been shown during covid – and not only by those professing to be Christian.

From the beginning of the pandemic, people have been helping others, caring for those who live alone, or are vulnerable, keeping an eye on neighbours - and even the homeless were given somewhere safe to stay.

People have been grateful to those who have continued to work, in the NHS, food supply, teaching, delivery drivers, etc. etc. There have been visible signs of gratitude and kindness; clapping, rainbows, painting stones, bell ringing, all for our friends.

Now as things begin to return to normal, whatever that will look like, let's not forget about that kindness, that love.

Let's abide in it, as we abide in God's love. Let's remain a while in a place where all are loved and cared for, in every place and for all time.

Let's continue to go and bear fruit. Amen.

Revd. Nicki McNelly

(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

Father God, You enfold all the world in one embrace. You hold every child of every race in your unfailing grasp. We pray that that embrace will enfold those people in India and

other countries of the world where coronavirus is unrelenting. We pray that there, where human hearts are breaking under sorrow's iron rod, your healing powers will triumph. You are love, and love for ever over the universe will reign.

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

Father God, We thank you for your Holy Spirit, poured into us with love, enabling us to see what is right and to make choices that reflect your word.

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

Father God, Without your help we can do nothing. We pray that, with that help, we can love one another as you love us, treating other people with patience, forbearance and kindness and shunning arrogance and boastfulness in what do in your name. By this, the world will know that we are your disciples.

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

Father God, Strengthen our faith in you when we have doubts. Strengthen our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as your son. Strengthen our readiness to heed the truthful testimony of the Holy Spirit. We pray that with your support, obedience to your commandments will not be burdensome.

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

Father God, Christ kept your commandments, abiding in your love. We pray that we can do the same, loving one another as Christ loved us. May we give you joy as your servants, bearing your fruit, fruit that will last. We pray that we may feel able to ask anything of you, having the faith to believe you will answer us.

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

Caroline Seville

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 337 – I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

*Dan Schutte (b.1947) based on Isaiah 6 ©1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music
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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

Father, you restored us to life by raising your Son from death. May we who receive this sacrament always be strengthened to do your will, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen 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!

Please remain in your seats until invited to leave by a Welcomer. Keep your face covering on and use the hand sanitizing gel as you leave.

Please remember to socially distance in the courtyard and church grounds.

Thank you for joining us today and we look forward to the next time. Keep safe and God bless.



St Cuthbert's Notes

9 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>

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.

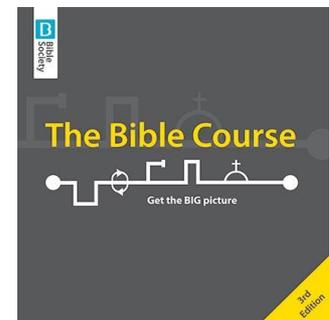
Services in Church:

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.

The Bible Course:

Monday at 7pm for 8 weeks, commencing 17 May (on Zoom). Please let Nicki know by Sunday 9 May if you would like to join her on The Bible Course. All are welcome.



Weekly Prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for the wonderful love and support that you give us. Help us to reflect a little of that love through kindness to others, whether they are friends or strangers. May we seek to obey your commandment in this small way. Amen.