



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kelso



An Open and Inclusive Church

www.standrewskelso.co.uk

Charity Number SC006302

Rector: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

01573 224163

rectorofkelso@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Grace Redpath

01573 450752

grace.redpath@btconnect.com

Regular Services:

Wednesdays 10am : Holy Communion (1982 Liturgy)

Sundays 8.30am : Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

10am: Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) .

Numbers will be limited to 40 to maintain social distancing. Our online services will continue to be provided via these links.

Website: www.standrewskelso.co.uk/services

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsKelso

Today's Services:

Sunday May 2nd 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8.30am: Holy Communion (Scottish Prayer Book)

Celebrant: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

Preacher: The Rev'd Grace Redpath

10am: Eucharist (1982 Liturgy)

Celebrant and Preacher: The Rev'd Grace Redpath

Liturgy of the Word: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

So, welcome to our services, wherever and however you join us, and remember that Grace and I are available at any time to talk on the phone or Facetime or Messenger or Text.

With my love and prayers,

Bob

The Peace of the Lord be always with us.

Opening Hymn: God is love: let heav'n adore him

1. God is love: let heav'n 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 heav'ns above,

he who breathes through all creation,

he is love, eternal love.

**2. God is love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
evr'y child of evr'y 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.**

**3. 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word and Intercessions The Rev'd Canon Bob King

The 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind
and with all your strength."
The second is this:
"Love your neighbour as yourself."
There is no other commandment greater than these.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession and Absolution

God is love and we are his children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because he 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. Amen**

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

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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 Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life; give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Intercessions

Bob will lead prayers for the Church and the World, and we are invited to bring our own concerns before God, including:

Coronavirus: all who are suffering from it, worrying about it, treating it, researching it, and all who are working to keep us safe, and keep us fed.

Sickness: Edward Harding-Newman.

Those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time, including: Evelyn Hutchins, Joan Mattinson, James Crawford, Jean Brown, Jim Dalgleish, Margaret Forrest, Lindsay Hopkins, Michael Orde and all who mourn them.

Readings

1 John 4: 7-21 (NRSV)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.

¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.

¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Gospel

This is the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 15: 1-8 (The Message) Glory to Christ our Saviour

¹⁻³"I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

⁴"Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you.

In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

⁵⁻⁸"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant.

Separated, you can't produce a thing.

Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire

. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.

This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

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

Reflection: The Rev'd Grace Redpath

Connected to Life

Three weeks ago, on one of those beautiful days that we all enjoyed in April, I took my houseplants out into the garden to replot them in the warm sunshine. They were looking a little bit dejected. Unkempt and uncared for after a long winter. The geraniums, in particular, had become 'leggy' – rambling long stems with very little foliage. There was nothing else for it but to take the pruning shears and cut them right back. What I was left with looked unpromising to say the least.

My plants reminded me of what some of us looked and felt like as we cautiously emerged from the most recent lockdown. Starved of human company and touch and separated from our loved ones for months on end we were much in need of some loving care and attention. And not just from the hairdresser!

If you're anything like me coming out of hibernation has been quite a challenge. At times it has felt as if I've had nothing of value to give. Empty, almost lifeless.

Today, in our Gospel reading, which was part of Jesus' farewell instructions given to his followers before he died, the analogy of Jesus as the real and true Vine was used, with us as his followers being the branches. It went on to say that every branch that is grape-bearing would be pruned so that it will bear even more fruit.

Well, I can tell you for sure that there are days when I don't feel like I've got the energy to bear fruit right now. It seems as if I've been going through the pruning process for months now. Stripped of all the usual props and supports; bereft of the old familiar way-of-life has diminished my confidence and reduced my sense of hope for the future. That might be true for you too?

And yet, surely there is hope for the future.

Hidden in the middle of an apocalyptic chapter in the Bible about earthquakes and wars is a tiny verse that makes me sit up and take notice. (Apocalyptic is a word that strikes fear in our hearts but it actually means a pulling back of the veil to reveal a new reality – the new normal - when suddenly we're plunged into a completely different world as we have been with the pandemic.)

The verse I'm talking about says: *"All this is only the beginning of the birth pangs."* (Matthew 24.8) Birth pangs – after Covid something new is about to be born. Birth is all about new life. Remember, we're still in the season of Easter, the season of resurrection.

And looking at my plants, cut to within an inch of their lives, miraculously the tiniest vibrant green shoots are beginning to appear. Resurrection. New life. Hope.

In our relationship with Jesus the Vine we are joined to a life-stream, a life-stream that flows from him into us and enables us to produce fruit, the fruit of the Spirit. Fruit produced not through our own efforts but through our dependence on God each day for strength and wisdom, and the power to love with compassion. Power given when we live in Jesus, making our home in him.

Let me tell you a story as told by Rev'd Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in Trafalgar Square in London recorded in his book *The City is my Monastery*.

It's a story that illustrates the power of kindness – one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit - and how acts of kindness can touch the lives of others saying, 'You're worth it'. 'You matter.' 'I care about you.' Kindness that sees the humanity in the other. Kindness that puts ourselves in their shoes. Kindness born out of empathy. Kindness that bears fruit.

Over a number of years a Vietnamese man who had an anger problem attended the refugee group at St Martin's. Life had gone wrong for him. Family relationships were fractured and he had been forbidden to contact his daughter. When he felt threatened he would flare up and resort to violence. This meant he was banned from everywhere; alienated and homeless.

But gradually, over time, through the kindness shown to him at St Martins a fragile trust grew. He asked for nothing other than his own space and a socket to plug in his mobile phone, with its cracked face and pictures of the family he could never meet.

Gradually, kindness worked its medicine. He softened.

And then one day it all went wrong again. A confrontation with a volunteer. He refused to come back to the group and was sentenced to be deported.

Before he left, however, he came to say goodbye. There were tears in his eyes. Richard gave him a London sweatshirt. He said he would hang it on his wall. It dawned on Richard that in England he'd had no walls except the ones he had built within himself for his own defence. On seeing the tears Richard knew the wall had come down in him, kindness had broken through and the years of building trust had not been futile.

Richard writes, *"Living in a city we are often unaware of the stories that people carry inside them...layers of hidden life belong to everyone we meet, if only we learn to listen with the ear of our hearts. Many of those I work with are refugees or destitute. I have come to realize they are not the other – they are all of us who search for a home. Be kind to those you meet, for we all carry within us the wounds of our own wars."*

In our shared humanity we **do** all carry wounds. Just as Jesus does. Our wounds shape us, make us the people we are. Showing someone our wounds, letting our defences down, doesn't come easily. And yet, that's exactly what Jesus did. The risen, resurrected Jesus showed his disciples his wounds. Being as vulnerable as one can be to another human being.

The fruit of kindness builds trust and enables this openness. It allows the barriers between us to drop as we become confident enough to display our wounds to one another. To reveal the parts of us that are broken. That, in turn, brings healing, deepens relationships and draws us closer together as a community. A community that flourishes. A community that displays the fresh green shoots of new life. A community that bears fruit, the fruit of the Spirit.

Living God, we are amazed and thankful that your vine is full of vibrant life, carrying within it the life and breath of Christ, bringing such fruit of healing and compassion, love and peace to torn and broken lives.

Join us close to the main stem that is Jesus

Prune us of all that is at odds with his love.

Cut out the dead wood and let his life flow in and out of us,

Bringing a joyful harvest of grace and peace,

The glorious fruit of your kingdom.

Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands

**1. Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.**

2. Put peace into each other's hands,
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.
3. Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing,
look people warmly in the eye;
our life is meant for caring.
4. As at communion, shape your hands,
into a waiting cradle;
the gift of Christ receive, revere,
united round the table.
5. Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

**The Service continues with Eucharistic Prayer 4
Celebrated for us by The Rev'd Grace Redpath**

Please join in the Communion anyway you would like to.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is waiting

1. Jesus Christ is waiting,
waiting in the streets:
no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger,
fit to wait on you.

2. Jesus Christ is raging,
raging in the streets
where injustice spirals
and all hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I am angry too;
in the kingdom's causes
let me rage with you.

**3. Jesus Christ is healing,
healing in the streets
curing those who suffer,
touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus,
I have pity too;
let my care be active,
healing just like you.**

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**

**So, let us all go – or stay –in peace, to love and serve the Lord,
wherever and however we can.**

In the name of Christ. Amen