

Ashkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow and Selkirk Parish Churches

30th January 2022, 11am at Kirkhope

Welcome

Hymn

God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!
Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Prayer

God of love, **we worship you.**
You created the beautiful world in which we live, providing richly for
all our needs.
God of love, **we worship you.**
We create distrust, arguments and wars, yet you were born into an
occupied land bringing love and peace into a place of conflict.
God of love, **we worship you.**
We choose to go our own way, but Jesus shows us a better way of
love and service and harmony.
God of love, **we worship you.**
We live with fear and doubt, but you give us hope and faith and
healing.
God of love, **we worship you.**
Amen

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be Your name Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us
from evil
For the kingdom the power and the glory are
Yours now and forevermore Amen

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The Gift of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

C4H 533 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

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 My 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 let the blinded see

If I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoners free

And never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,

And do such as this unseen,

And admit to what I mean

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 my 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.

Sermon White Stones, there is one for you to take home with you, if you are in church. Those sharing from home have an extra task – find a stone, or a friend may bring you one.

Why a stone?

Sometimes it is good to have a physical reminder of God's love. Something to look at and feel and focus our thoughts and prayers on the reality of the unseen. God's love is not a fluffy pink heart type of love.

- Stones are Heavy – God's love is not a feather, blown by the wind, God's love stays where he puts it. God has put his love on each of us, and his love will stay with us through life and death in eternity.
- God's love may feel heavy when God wants us to do something we are not keen on – take or give up a role. It felt heavy when I was called to be a hospital chaplain. God tends to be right when we are called he gives us the love and skills we need.
- Stone is part of earth, created, enduring. This stone was created long before our early ancestors lit fires or walked tall and will probably still be here after we are all dead. But the love of God will hold us long after the stone is gone.
- Stone is part of the earth, created as part of God's provision for us. God in love created a beautiful earth for us to live on and care for.
- We find stones piled on beaches, piled in cairns, built into small shelters and mighty cathedrals. – we are built into the church, local and global and eternal.
- Stones have been raised up by Neolithic people, presumably where they were aware of God's love and presence. They were raised by nomadic early Israelites to mark God's actions. The early Celtic church raised many carved, stone crosses across Scotland to remind people of God's care.
- These stones are white – reminding us that we are cleansed by the blood of the lamb – God's supreme act of love is Jesus' birth as a poor human baby, life, death and

resurrection through which we may know our salvation.

- If place you place a stone on furniture it will leave a scratch, so put paper, coaster, cloth underneath.
- As people, our lives will leave marks. The stone reminds us that as followers of Jesus, loved by God, the marks we leave on our neighbours and the earth should be marks of love.
- Langstrothdale, in North Yorkshire is one of my favorite places. Small stones turned by centuries of river have made giant's footsteps in the flat bedrock of the river. As the holes grow, more stones fall in to add to the cutting action.
- We can steadfastly keep on working for peace and justice, making slow but sure progress.
- In the 19th century Christians were in the forefront of the struggle against the slave trade. The struggle against slavery continues today as people are trafficked across the world. The stones cutting out that giant's footsteps have been replaced, but the struggle goes on steadfastly.
- We are called to steadfastly work for climate justice, practically sharing God's love with those struggling today with unpredictable climate and loss of livelihood and protecting generations to come.
- If a toddler picks up your stone it may get thrown through a TV or window or ... Just, watch where you put it! God's work may mean you work for a big break-through.
- With Him all things are possible. His love is the strongest and eternal.

C4H 465 Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart

BE THOU MY VISION, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower:
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise:
Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Prayer of confession.

God of mercy, hear us as we confess our sins.
For the sin that has made us slow to learn from Christ, reluctant to
follow him,
and afraid to bear the cross:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has caused the poverty of our worship,
the formality and selfishness of our prayers,
our neglect of fellowship and the means of grace,
and our hesitating witness for Christ:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has led us to misuse your gifts,
evade our responsibilities,

and fail to be good stewards of your creation:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

For the sin that has made us unwilling to overcome evil with good,
tolerant of injustice,
quick to condemn,
and selfish in sharing your love with others:

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, forgive.

Silence

**Have mercy on me, O God,
in your constant love;
in the fullness of your mercy
blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt,
and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Give me the joy of your help again
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

If we confess our sins,
God is faithful and just,
and will forgive our sins,
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore, to all who truly repent
this is his gracious word:
'Your sins are forgiven'.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

As God's servants and witnesses, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Loving God hear us as we pray for your holy, world-wide Church:
make us all one, that the world may believe.

Inspire and lead all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world:
establish justice and peace among all people.

Have compassion on all who suffer from any sickness, grief or trouble:
deliver them from their distress.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory:
bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray in silence for our own needs and for those of others . . .

Silence

Lord our God,
you have helped us by your grace
to make these prayers,
and you have promised through Christ our Lord
that when two or three agree in his name
you will grant what they ask.
Answer now your servants' prayers
according to their needs;
in this world grant that we may truly know you,
and in the world to come
graciously give us eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn C4H 561 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
BLESSED ASSURANCE, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

We share **the grace**
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for evermore.
Amen
GO in peace to love and serve the Lord in the name of Christ. AMEN

