

Order of Service 1st August 2021

Prelude

Welcome, Good morning and welcome to worship, at Kingussie Parish Church this morning/ St Bride's this morning. Our 1st Hymn this morning is

HYMN 159: Lord for the years

Call to prayer:

God our creator, your kindness has brought the gift of a new day. Help us not to cling to yesterday, nor covet tomorrow, but to accept the uniqueness of today. So let's bring our prayers to God with confidence, knowing that He will hear and answer.

Prayer: Let us pray: O God You know each of us well, love us deeply and You are able to sustain us in a variety of ways. We are humbled by our awareness of your concern and involvement in our lives and your interest in our welfare. We are given so many gifts in our daily lives, love and companionship, we come anticipating a wider perspective of Your grace and power.

Amen

1st Reading: Exodus: 16:2-4, 9-15: Read for us by Mrs Eppy Mackay

FIRST THOUGHT

We have heard the story of when the people of Israel came out of Egypt, we are reminded that the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron, they had left behind all their usual sources of food. As slaves they were well provided with food, because their masters the Egyptians wanted workers who had stamina and energy to work hard. As escaping slaves the Israelites left in a hurry, they took with them their animals, however they only had enough grain as they could carry, due to their continual travelling they had nowhere where to grow crops or to allow their animals to graze in pastures and grow fat. They now challenged the wisdom of their leaders, who had told them that God would care for them. The Israelites being to look back with nostalgia to their time in Egypt while being in the wilderness, setting aside in their minds that they had desired an end to slavery, but did not like the price which had to be paid. As the old Scots saying expresses it: There is only one thing worse than not getting what you want when you want it, and that is getting it. God responded to the rage and misery of the Israelites with the gift of unexpected food. The reasons for anger and resentment were removed along with the hunger. We all have to adjust to the reality of what all of life means and how we have to deal with some difficulties we would rather avoid. The Israelites had to develop confidence that God will be with them whatever difficulty, danger and deprivation they may face. Are we guilty, like the Israelites of grumbling

about the condition of our own lives which are unavoidable? We also need to have confidence that God will provide for us in unexpected ways.

Amen

2nd Reading: John 6:24-35: Read for us by Mrs Eppy Mackay

SECOND THOUGHT

Jesus' came to call people into action and through his teaching encouraged and challenged them. We have on a previous Sunday looked at the 'Feeding of the five thousand.' Jesus reminds those who come to him, just as the Israelites were promised that they will have bread, they are told that they shall hunger no more.

Jesus did not come to create a new school of philosophy, he came to offer a human change, and an opportunity of discovering more about God than they could ever imagine.

In the past year when the numbers of people who were hospitalised kept rising, we saw daily on television how the NHS staff worked relentlessly around the clock giving of their expertise and knowledge to save lives. We remember those who lost their lives, the patients and staff.

During this time our attention was drawn to the needs of those who were struggling to put food on their tables. Around the country we saw queues at churches, mosques where food was being given out to those in need. People who lived on their own had food parcels delivered to their homes, all this emulated the Feeding of the Five thousand in a modern day setting. We give thanks for all who helped locally to distribute food to those who lived on their own.

One young man who remembered how his mother struggled to feed her family when he was young. This young man was Marcus Rashford and he worked endlessly to help others who were struggling to feed their families during the pandemic, he understood what it was like to be hungry, he also campaigned for free school meals, not only in term time but throughout school holidays, this succeeded with the government issuing vouchers to cover school holidays.

We give thanks to all who remember those in need, there will be many examples of caring throughout the pandemic that we have not heard about.

Amen

KPC – The Choir will now sing for us: 'Praise waits for thee in Zion

PRAYERS of Thanksgiving

Almighty and all-seeing God, throughout history you have called people to respond to your challenge and call to follow you. Today we thank you for those who have heard that call and in faith responded

Abraham, called to venture into the unknown, trusting in your promise; Moses called to lead your people from slavery to the Promised Land , against all odds; Joshua, called to trust in you and you alone; Samuel, called by you to a life of service even before he realised it was you calling; the prophets, called to proclaim your word of judgement regardless of the cost to themselves; John the Baptist, called to be a messenger in the wilderness, preparing the way of Christ; the twelve disciples called to leave the security of their livelihoods to follow Jesus; the Apostle Paul, called to preach the Gospel to all nations.

We thank you for these and all subsequent generations who have heard your voice and responded in faith, offering to you their lives in service. We thank you for those we have known whose discipleship has been an inspiration to us all, those who offer an example of what it means to live and walk in faith.

Above all we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ – for his perfect revelation of you, his total love, his supreme sacrifice!

Give us ears to hear whenever you call, and faith to follow wherever you lead. Take us and use us, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

We pray together saying:- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen

Next Sunday 8th August we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism

HYMN 702: Lord, in love and perfect wisdom

BENEDICTION:

Whatever today may hold, whatever tomorrow might bring, the future is secure, for Christ is with us, the same yesterday, today and forever. Love each moment with him in quiet confidence and joyful celebration, for he is ours and we are his for eternity. And the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and remain with you.

Amen

intro to Postlude

Postlude: The postlude is 'Festival Finnacle' by Malcolm Archer, played on the Kingussie Organ by Mr John Crombie