

Sunday morning service 16th April 2023

Kingussie Parish Church

Kingussie Parish Church linked with Laggan and Newtonmore

Good morning and a very warm welcome to our service at Kingussie Parish Church this morning.

We have some Church notices to draw to your attention

Kingussie Parish Church :-

Due to the Rev Mary Ellen being unwell the Service due at Insh tonight is cancelled.

Wednesday Babies and Toddlers from 9.00

Every Thursday Warm space will operate from 10:00 until 16:00
Hot drinks and snacks available throughout the day, with soup and bread at lunchtime. Craft activities including knitting, sewing, glass painting and friendly chat.

Everyone is welcome to pop in.
Foodshare table is also available

Laggan and Newtonmore:-

Prayer meeting dates for the next quarter each falling on the 3rd Friday each month are as follows :-

21st April at Newtonmore 11am -12 noon

19th May at Kingussie 11am - 12 noon

16th June at Laggan 11am - 12 noon

Let us gather together in prayer

Lord as we meet here with you this morning we remember your promise “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them,” and we take great comfort from your presence with us. Please keep us alert to your word, that we may help make the changes needed to make your world the place you want it to be.

Amen

First hymn 210 Awake my soul and with the sun.

Our first reading this morning is from

Genesis Ch 1 v 26 - 31

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Amen

Our second hymn 200 Christ is made the sure foundation

Our second reading is from

Luke Ch 24 v 13 - 35

The Walk to Emmaus

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognising him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days." "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

"Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat,

he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognised him as he was breaking the bread.

Amen

Our third hymn is 702 Lord, in love and perfect wisdom

Let us pray together

Lord as we meet here together as part of your world wide Church
we thank you for your never ending love.

We each come with our own thoughts, worries and joys seeking your
forgiveness for all the times we have wandered from your ways.

We are truly thankful that through your grace you do find us and help us,
providing us with joy, hope and the certain knowledge that our
misdemeanours are forgiven. We are grateful to be once again reconciled in
your loving care.

In this coming week please grant us patience and understanding when
dealing with difficult situations.

Let generous actions speak louder than harsh words.

Let us mend a quarrel instead of starting one,

Let us dismiss suspicion replacing it with trust

Let us give a soft answer

Keep a promise

Find the time to help someone
Forego a grudge
Forgive an enemy
Listen
Apologise if we were wrong
Try to understand others points of view
Flout envy
We ask you to lead us in your ways, not our own, now and always

Amen

Thoughts for today and questions to contemplate

What brought us to Church this morning?

To connect with God?
To recharge our Christian batteries?
To set us up for the week ahead?
To listen to the music?
To enjoy the singing?
Or was it to hear the word of God?

When you hear the word 'Church' what image pops into your head?
A sanctuary full of pews?
Pews dotted with people?
A meeting of like minded people?
A meeting with friends?
Or just something to do on a Sunday morning?

Have you ever felt separated from God, especially when things are not going well, a dark time when fear and worries overtook every thought?

Has something happened which has upset you?
Has there been a situation you couldn't see your way out of?

Have you seen others around you thoroughly enjoying life and you just couldn't share in their happiness?

These are possibly the same type of feelings the disciples may well have been struggling with on that first Easter Day. Their Lord had been crucified.

Their ministry had been stopped. They had heard from some of the women and from the two who had gone to Emmaus, that Jesus was alive. But was this real, or was it just something they had imagined?

It was late in the day, evening had crept in and they still had not seen Jesus. They were afraid.....perhaps of the Jewish leaders who might also have them killed. Perhaps even of Jesus. How would he respond to them? They had abandoned him in the hour of his greatest need and what about Peter how could he face Jesus after he had denied him three times?

They had locked the door. Perhaps locked to the Jewish leaders, perhaps to Jesus himself or perhaps to keep out any hope that might end up disappointing them.

It was in this dark time that Jesus came to them and during our darkest moments he comes to us too. As believers we know he is with us always especially during times of despair.

The first thing Jesus says to them is "Peace be with you!" and he repeats it. These self same words he had said to the disciples when he last saw them before he was crucified.

In our times of need Jesus also says to us "Peace be with you!"

We may have lost contact with him through our actions, just like the disciples did with their behaviours but he still extends to us his peace. Jesus does not make a list of things we must accomplish before he accepts us back into his presence.

Every Christian knows that God has a plan. He has plans for each person, nation and indeed his entire world. That does not mean, however, that we as Christians do not sometimes look at the world around us and struggle to find the method in the madness.

We may even struggle to remember that there is a plan at all. In those moments, Scripture can be a good way for us to remind ourselves that God has not abandoned us but is still working towards creating his kingdom here on earth.

Everything happens for a reason...
the death and resurrection of his son,
the actions of the Disciples and
the reason you came to church this morning

The hardest times to see God's plan are when everything seems to be falling apart. When wars, disease, death and disaster, strip normality, away from people. It can be difficult to remember that there is a loving God.

Violence is so random and so pointless.

Yet, the Bible shows clearly that God sometimes uses terrible circumstances to move his plan forward.

Good things sometimes require bad things to happen first.

In Genesis, for example, we learn Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers but it was Joseph's presence in Egypt, that saved both Egypt and his family from famine.

His brothers wished him harm, but God used it for good.

...no one can foil God's plan, not dictators, nor armies, or governments

God is always working towards the good of his people and for the good of the world.

So perhaps why we come to church isthat **each time we do, God is challenging us to go out and fight the good fight of faith for the rest of the week.**

We are being equipped to serve as a church member ready to play our part in God's plan, serving God's people in God's world.

The Church is not the building it's the people

Neither is the Church the Sunday morning service, it's the body of people connected to one another as the family of the Church, living out there in our community each with a different role to play in God's plan.

Amen

The choir is now going to sing the anthem - Jesus lover of my soul

Let us pray together for everyone in our world family

Lord

all our times are in your hands.

We give thanks, for the many who have made this journey before us,
in and around this church,
this place of community life where friends, fellow-travellers and
companions have found comfort in times of trial, struggle, celebration and
festivity.

The people we name quietly now in gratitude for all that they have given
over time also all those known to us who are struggling with ill health may
they be supported as they recover

(Silence for a moment)

As Joseph struggled with circumstances in Egypt we learn from his
experience that we should never lose heart, and from Jesus teachings we
should always pray, so, we pray for situations which are causing us
concern;

The ongoing war in Ukraine and the continuing troubles in Afghanistan,

Lord please use your influence to speed up solutions to end the carnage.

The unfair divide of wealth among all nations of the world, where those
with great wealth often lose sight of the plight of others who have nothing.

Please open their eyes to see their fellow human beings struggles and
awaken their senses to do something about it .

The ongoing difficulties experienced through climate change especially for
the people of Turkey still recovering from the devastating earthquakes.

Please help those involved find solutions to the problems being
encountered.

We pray too for our local churches that we may continue to work together
for the benefit of our local community.

Let's join together now in saying the prayer

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 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

Eppy
Closing hymn is 448 Shine Jesus Shine

Benediction

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you

Amen

Hymn 786

May the God of peace go with us