

Sunday Service 22nd January 2023 at

Kingussie Parish Church and St Bride's Church Newtonmore.

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Service at Kingussie this morning.

Church notices :-

Wednesday 25th from 9:00. Babies and Toddlers restart.

Thursday 26th Warm space will operate from 13:00 until 16:00
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

Hot drinks and snacks available throughout the day and soup and bread from 13:00.

Craft activities including knitting, sewing, glass painting and friendly chat.

Everyone is welcome to pop in.

Foodshare table also available.

Gathering Prayer for the Season of Epiphany

Jesus Christ, Light of the world, you reveal yourself to your disciples, Open our ears to your call and help us to be faithful and serve you all our days.

Amen

1st Hymn 187 There's a wideness in God's mercy

1st Reading: Psalm 27 v 1, 5 - 13

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—

of whom shall I be afraid?

For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Saviour

Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.

Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

2nd **Hymn 253** Inspired by love and anger

2nd Reading: Matthew Ch 4 v 12 - 23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfil what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—

The people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Heals the Sick

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

3rd Hymn 198 Let us build a house where love can dwell

Let us Pray

Adoration

Worthy of praise from every mouth, of confession from every tongue, Of worship from every creature, is your glorious name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

You created the world in your grace and by your compassion you redeemed it. Heaven and earth are full of your praises:
Glory be to you, O God most high. Gracious Father, your might is beyond measure, your wisdom is beyond knowledge, your love beyond all telling. You have put eternity into our hearts, and made us hunger and thirst for you. That we may find life in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Choir Anthem

I'll go in the strength of the Lord

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

We continue with Jesus being revealed as the Christ. Perhaps the arrest and imprisonment of John acted as a catalyst in making Jesus take up his ministry. Jesus leaves Nazareth. He leaves his home and goes to live in Capernaum. His life of ministry and his work of salvation now truly begins. This area of Galilee is the most northerly district of Palestine. It was not a large area, only 50 miles north to south and 25 miles east to west. But because it was the most fertile area of Palestine. It was densely populated.

Josephus records that there were 204 communities with populations of over 15,000 people. Jesus began his mission where there were the most people likely to hear him. Surrounded by Gentile nations, it was an area open to new ideas and used to change. This would be an area open to teaching and ministry of Jesus.

Matthew tells us that Jesus began to 'proclaim': the word he uses is that of a herald's proclamation. The herald speaks with a certainty of his message. Preachers cannot tell us anything with certainty if they have doubts themselves. The herald speaks with authority because he speaks on behalf of the king, from a source beyond himself. In this case, Jesus speaks the word of God. True preaching is concerning the word of God and not our own opinions or ideas.

The message is: Repent, turn around, turn to God. If we are not looking the right way, you cannot go the right way, Seek God. If we but know it, God's kingdom is near – it is because we look in the wrong direction that we that we do not see it or enter it.

Jesus now calls his first disciples. It is worth noting in Matthew that the initiative comes from Jesus. This is so often true: God/Jesus calls but so often we stall. He calls Simon Peter and Andrew as they are casting a net into the Sea of Galilee, saying, 'Follow me.' Immediately they leave their nets and follow him. They do not say, 'Wait until we have finished' or 'Wait until we have sold this fish'; they leave all and follow him. If we do not respond to the call immediately, we are less likely to respond later - though Jesus calls and calls.

In the same way he calls James and John who are in a boat with their father mending their nets. Immediately they leave the boat and their father and follow him. The two sets of brothers give up their security and their homes to follow the Master.

So the ministry of Jesus begins. Jesus travels through-out Galilee, teaching in Synagogues, proclaiming the Good News and healing people.

Amen

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you give us life,
You give us love, you give us yourself. Lord, may we learn to give our life,
our love, ourselves to you, for it is in such giving that we open our lives to
you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

We give thanks for those who have shared their faith with us. We ask your blessing upon all who seek to witness to your abiding presence and your love. We pray for all who are seeking to fulfil their calling in life. We pray for schools, colleges and universities. We remember especially those who are ill.

We give thanks for all who provide us with our daily food.

We ask for your blessing upon all who are involved in growing or supplying our food. We remember before you all who are being used as cheap labour and we pray for Fair trade and justice. May we all use the resources of the world with care and respect.

We give thanks for our homes and our loved ones, for all who have enriched us by their love and generosity. We ask your blessing upon all who feel used, abused or unloved.

We ask your blessing upon all who are finding life difficult through illness or oppression. We pray for all who feel their abilities are being wasted or thwarted through illness or circumstance. May we know that in whatever circumstance we find ourselves God still loves us and calls us to love him. May we all share in your abiding love and the fullness of life eternal.

Lord Jesus Christ, as you called the Apostles at the start of your ministry, and as you have called many others since, so your call comes to us, to share in the work of your kingdom.

We say together,
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

Our closing Hymn 685 For everyone born, a place at the table, please remain standing following this Hymn for the Benediction

Benediction

Go in the peace of God. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Amen

Hymn 786 May the God of peace go with us