

Sunday Service at KPC 5th March 2023 at Kingussie Parish Church

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

Church notices : -

Kingussie Parish Church

Can Church Elders please pick up the quarterly magazines for delivery, they are on the table in Hall. Thank you.

Wednesday 8th March Babies and Toddlers restarts from 9.00am

Thursday 9th March. 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 also available

Laggan and Newtonmore

Prayer meeting on Friday 17th March in Laggan Church from 11am until 12 noon.

Let us Pray - Opening Prayer

Lord, you are our light and our salvation; let us put our trust in you. Lighten our darkness and drive far from us all the snares of evil, that in you we may find eternal life.

Amen

1st Hymn 81 "I to the hills will lift mine eyes"

1st Reading: Romans Ch 4 v 1-5 and 13-17

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

2nd Hymn 530 One more step along the world I go

2nd Reading: John Ch 3 v 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

3rd Hymn 533 Will you come and follow me

Call to prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray

God of wisdom and love, giver of all good things, we thank you for your loving-kindness, and for your constant care over all creation.

We bless you for the gift of life, for your guiding hand upon us, and your sustaining love within us.

We thank you for friendship and duty, for good hopes and precious memories, for the joys that cheer us, and the trials that teach us to trust in you.

We bless you for Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour, for the living presence of your Spirit, for your Church, the body of Christ, for the ministry of Word and all the means of grace.

In our weakness, you are our strength; in our darkness, light;
In our sorrows, comfort and peace. From everlasting to everlasting you are our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, glorified for ever.

Amen

CHOIR ANTHEM: “Spirit of God”

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Normally we see Jesus working in the daytime and with crowds of ordinary people around him; today's Gospel is about a rich aristocrat who came to Jesus by night for a one- to-one meeting.

Nicodemus was leader of the Jews – that is, he was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin of which there were only 70 members. The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the Jews and had religious jurisdiction over all the Jews in the world. One of the things the Sanhedrin did was examine anyone charged with being a false prophet. It is amazing that such a man risked coming to see Jesus.

He came at night, perhaps out of caution. Maybe he did not want to be seen with Jesus. Possibly it was because the rabbis taught that the best time to study was at night when one was not disturbed. Perhaps he wanted to see Jesus on his own. Night might also be a symbol of his own darkness, of all the unanswered questions about his life and his relationship with God. He was a believer and a law-abiding person but perhaps he felt that there was more. Religion and abiding are not enough. Nicodemus knew there was something else needed. Many churchgoers find themselves in this position of needing to move from belief to faith, from religion to the living God.

Nicodemus is courteous and says how he is impressed by the miracles of Jesus. Jesus gently sweeps this aside and comes to the need of Nicodemus. Jesus talks of the need to be born from above. Nicodemus asks if this is possible for an old man. Perhaps we should talk if it is possible for a church that has grown old to be reborn. Jesus says there is no need to be born of the Spirit. We are not just earthly beings but children of God and we need to know our Father and that we belong to him. Jesus understands well that Nicodemus knows these things with his head but he has to accept them in his heart and life. Only in this way will the darkness be dispersed with the light and love of God. St John wants us to know we can experience this in Jesus from the outset. John says of Jesus, 'in him was life, and the life was the light of all people' It is to Nicodemus that Jesus said probably the most famous and well-known words in the Bible: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes may not perish but may have eternal life'.

We do not hear of Nicodemus again until after the crucifixion. Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, asks to be allowed to take away the body. Nicodemus is also there, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about 100 pounds for the burial of Jesus – two members of the Sanhedrin showing their love and respect for Jesus. The gift is a costly one and one that shows Nicodemus in the daylight.

Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Loving God, you care for all your children;
you know each one and hear each prayer,
you know each house and see each need.
Give peace and love to those who call upon you, and receive us into the
kingdom of your light.

Bless your Church here and everywhere. Confirm your people in the faith of
the Gospel, inspire them with love for your house, zeal in your service, and
joy in the well-being of your kingdom.

Bless your servant Charles our King. Govern the hearts and minds of the
King's ministers and counsellors, that they may fulfil their service for the
welfare of the people and the glory of your name.

Bless the whole world with peace. Kindle in the hearts of all people the true
love of peace, and guide with your wisdom the leaders of the nations, that
your kingdom may advance until the earth be filled with the knowledge of
your love.

Bless with your comfort all who are in trouble or pain. Heal those who are
sick; support those who are dying;

Supply the wants of those who are in need. And be near to those who are in
need. And be near to those whom we name in silence

Bless our homes , that love and joy may dwell there; and keep those who
are absent from us within the protection of your love. And now, we join
together saying :-

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 is 606 Lord, you sometimes speak in wonders,
Please remain standing following this Hymn for the Benediction

BENEDICTION

May you know the presence of God our keeper with us in our coming and going, with us all from time on and evermore.
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Hymn 786 May the God of peace go with us