

**Sunday Service at St. Bride's Newtonmore**  
**Holy Communion 12th March, 2023**

Good morning and welcome to our Communion Service at St Bride's this morning.

Church notices :-

Kingussie Parish Church -

Wednesday 15th March    Babies and Toddlers from 9.00am

Every Thursday Warm space will operate from 10am until 4pm  
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 on Friday 17th March in Laggan Church from 11am until 12 noon.

**Let us Pray – Collect:**

Almighty God, you give the water of eternal life through Jesus Christ your Son. May we always thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

**1st Hymn 153** Great is thy faithfulness

**1st Reading: Exodus Ch 17 v 1 - 7 Mr Ron Gutteridge**

Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?"

And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.

"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink."

And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Amen

**2nd Hymn 167** Guide me, o thou great Jehovah

**2nd Reading: John Ch 4 v 5 - 42 Mr Ron Gutteridge**

So he came to the city of Samaria which is called Sychar,  
Near the plot of ground that Jacob gave his son Joseph.

Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being  
wearied from His journey, sat by the well. It was  
about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to  
her, "Give Me a drink."

For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of  
God, and who it is who says to you. "Give me a drink,  
You would have asked Him, and He would have given  
You living water."

The woman said to Him. “ Sir, You have nothing to draw  
With, and the well is deep. Where then do You get the  
That living water?

“ Are you greater than our father Jacob. Who gave us the well, and drank  
from it himself, as well, as his sons and his livestock?”

Jesus answered and said to her. “ Whoever drinks of this water will thirst  
again.

“but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst.  
But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water  
springing up into everlasting life.”

The woman said to Him. “ Sir give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor  
come here to draw.”

Jesus said to her, Go call your husband, and come here.”

The woman answered and said , “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her,  
you have well said. I have no husband, for you have five husbands, and the  
one whom you now have is not your husband, in that you spoke truly. The  
woman said to Him. “ Sir I perceive that You are a Prophet.

Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in  
Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship. Jesus said to  
her, woman believe Me the hour is coming, and now is of the Jews. The  
woman said to Him, “ I know the Messiah is coming.” (who is called Christ.)  
When He comes. He will tell us all things. Jesus said to her. “I who speak to  
you am He.”

Amen

3rd **Hymn 662** Jesus, thou joy of loving

### **Thought for the day**

Jesus is facing hostility from the Pharisees in Judea. So he decides to leave  
for Galilee: it is too early in his ministry for confrontation. To reach Galilee  
he travels through Samaria. In the heat of the noonday sun Jesus rests by  
Jacob's Well. The disciples have gone to Sychar, about half a mile away, to  
buy food. Jesus is thirsty but the well is 100 feet deep and he has nothing to  
draw water with.

Suddenly from the direction of Sychar a woman appears. What is she doing  
out in the midday sun? This is siesta time. She is either very disorganised or  
disorientated. It could be that she did not want to meet anyone. A  
Samaritan, a woman, and someone possibly marginalised. Jews are

supposed to have no dealings with Samaritans. Rabbis are not meant to speak to women outside at all. Rabbis had also declared it was not worth teaching a woman. It is also possible that the woman was a sinner and an outcast. Whereas Nicodemus chose to come to Jesus by night, this woman comes in the heat of the day and meets him by chance .

The woman was surprised that a Jew was willing to speak to her, a woman and a Samaritan. Jesus asks for some water and the woman lowers her bucket into the well and gives Jesus a drink. Jesus asks what brings her out in the middle of the day. 'Thirst' is her reply.

Jesus saw beyond what she said and saw she had a thirst she could not quench. Perhaps Jesus learnt from her of the five husbands she had and the man she was now living with. Was her thirst for love? Was it a thirst for acceptance? Was it a need to fill the emptiness within? Maybe nothing would satisfy her for long. She would again feel emptiness, a thirst that needed quenching. Here she was, by chance, at the Well of life.

Jesus meets her at her own level and says, 'Those who drink of the water I give them will never be thirsty.' The woman decided to humour Jesus and asked that he gave her such water and then she need not come to the well.

Jesus asks about her husband. From what he says, the woman decides he is a prophet and could solve her problems. Jesus tells her to worship God in Spirit and in truth. In response to this, the woman says, ' We must wait for the Messiah to come.' Jesus has now led her to where he wanted and says, 'I am he.'

Because the disciples return, the woman leaves Jesus but then tells the people of Sychar about him. She becomes an apostle! Many Samaritans come and believe because of her testimony.

Today there are many who thirst for life and feel empty inside.

**Amen**

**Call to prayers of Intercession**

**Let us pray**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you have made us for yourself and for your love. We seek your presence and desire to give our lives and our love to you. Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Lord, may your presence be revealed through your Church. May we never be satisfied with words without content, with actions without love, with buildings that do not convey your presence. Lord, fill us and make us a holy people, a fulfilled people and a missionary people. Bless our Churches, that they may grow in outreach, and in number.

You have given us a wonderful world. We remember all who suffer from hunger and thirst. We pray for all who do not have proper water supplies or who have to walk miles to get water.

We give thanks for the longings that you have given us. We ask your blessing upon our loved ones, our families and friends. We remember before you all who are lonely, those who are failing in health or strength, all who are fearful for the future.

We pray for Pastor Merik whose message, which we will hear following this prayer.

In the power of your Spirit you renew and refresh us. We pray for all who are departed from us. To you, God and your love we commit this world, our loved ones and ourselves now and for eternity.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

Mr Roy Alexander will bring his news to us now from Pastor Merik.

### **The Apostles Creed Hymn no. 628**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, and was buried;

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again ;

He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen

**Communion Minister using Book of Common Order**

**Our closing Hymn is 675** Now let us from this table rise

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