

Sunday Service 12th September 2021

The written word

Rev Mary Ellen Thomson

Order of Service 12th September 2021

Church Notices

There will be a joint Session meeting with Kingussie, followed by Laggan and Newtonmore meeting on Monday 13th September at 7p.m. in Newtonmore Church. At the next Worship Group Services, Newtonmore 12th September and Laggan 19th September. The Worship team are following the theme of The Church of Scotland's National Giving Day, but focussing on the giving of time and talents. There will be a retiring offering for the British Red Cross appeal for Afghanistan.

There will be a church sale of venison at Laggan on the 25th September which will be outside, then teas and coffees will be served in the Laggan Hall. Donations of biscuits and home baking following food safety hygiene regs

Words of Welcome

Let us worship God

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us worship God.

HYMN 214 New every morning is the love

Prayer: Let us pray:

Almighty God, Creator, and Ruler of all, we come this day to worship you and to ask Your guidance upon our lives.

We come to be still, we come to listen, we come to be noisy, and we come to offer ourselves to You.

Prepare our hearts to receive Your word and uplift our spirits as we spend time together worshipping You, so that when we leave this place of worship we may feel renewed and refreshed.

Loving God, we thank you for Your constant guidance in our lives and for all the ways You encourage, challenge, strengthen and renew us. We thank You that we still hear Your quiet words whispering to us in the silence of our own hearts. We thank You that through song, prayer, preaching, worship, mission and service, We are able still able to hear Your voice. Through fellowship and community, we can feel Your presence in what we do and say. We thank You that when we see the fields of corn and hear the birds singing, we are hearing You and when the wind blows we feel You.

We thank You that through Christ's life, work, teaching, death and resurrection You speak to us and that Your Holy Spirit inspires comforts and empowers us each day. We thank You for the times we have felt lost and have felt Your hand take hold of us and

lead us forward – through difficulties, life problems, and illnesses. We thank You for Your healing touch . Be with us now, directing our ways so that we may glorify You in all that we do and say.

Amen

Our first reading this morning: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.
Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.
Who will condemn me?

HYMN 534 Make me a captive Lord

2nd Reading: Mark 8:27-38

Mark Ch 8 v 27 -38

Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"
They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"
Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Way of the Cross

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Thought for Today

Our readings this week reflect on self-control and the wisdom of listening to what God is saying to us and amending our ways, so that our ways mirror what God desires of us.

Jesus has taken his disciples, apparently more than just Twelve, into Gentile territory, to find a quiet place to teach, they are 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee in an area that was well known for pagan worship. They are travelling around the villages of Caesarea Philippi. This area was famous for the worship of the God Baal in ancient times. The Greeks said it was the birthplace of Pan, the God of nature, the pipes of Pan could be heard in the woods and wood nymphs could be seen dancing.

It was here that Herod the Great built a gleaming white temple for the worship of Caesar. Herod's Philip beautified the temple and added his name to the town so that it became known as Caesarea Philippi. It was here, most likely under a starry sky by a campfire, that Jesus asked the disciples about their thoughts towards him.

Jesus asks first, 'Who do people say that I am?' Some were saying he was John the Baptist returned from the dead. No doubt this caused some amusement in the camp. Others were saying he was Elijah returned to herald in the coming of the Messiah. Yet others were saying he was a prophet, a good man and a wonder-worker. People still suggest all sorts of ideas about who Jesus is.

Jesus then asks, 'But who do say that I am?' This is what Jesus wants to know from each of us. Not a summary of other people's ideas. He wants the reply from those who have spent time with him, the personal conviction of a disciple. It is not enough to be able to recite creeds or what others have said about Jesus. A person can be an atheist and still pass exams in theology. You can be able to recite stories about the historical Jesus and

not be a Christian. Jesus seeks a personal response from each of us. He wants us to know him, to talk to him, and only then talk about him. Notice how personal Jesus is in his invitations:

Come to me.

I will refresh you.

Abide in me and I will abide in you.

We can only be true disciples if we spend time with him, if we get to know him. Then we can respond as Peter does by saying, 'You are the Christ, the Messiah.' 'When we personally come to know Jesus as the 'Anointed One of God' we will acknowledge him as our Lord and Saviour. One of the reasons Jesus told the disciples to tell no one is that people had wrongly ideas about what the Messiah should do. They would learn through Jesus that being the Messiah would involve his suffering, and they would discover that they will be called to suffer like him.

Peter tried to sway Jesus away from any conflict but Jesus knew he could not escape the battle if he had come to win people to God. He knew the powers of evil would rally against him and he could not run away. He did not want to suffer; that's what made Peter's words all the more dangerous. The Tempter often seeks to weaken our resolve through our friends. We have to stand firm.

Amen

HYMN: 237 Look forward in faith

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION and The Lord's Prayer

Gracious God we pray for those who struggle against You in thought word and deed. We pray for those who knowingly flout Your will and exploit others for their own gain. We pray for those who put their trust and faith in false gods, who know there is something missing in their lives but deny that it is You – Instead seeking refuge in money, possessions, and success.

We pray for our world that is broken and in pain. For those who are in sorrow and need. For the hungry, poor and lonely. For the sick and bereaved. Be their rock and constant companion through difficult and dark days.

Draw near to all and grant the peace of Your presence, the healing of Your touch and Your guidance and assurance of love so that all who are weak and weary may walk in hope and faith,

We pray 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

HYMN: 512 To God be the glory

BENEDICTION

The God who called us here is sending us out, to turn words into deeds, worship into Service, and vision into reality. Together we have celebrated the faith; now let us share it, in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

Please note -

Dates have been amended in the intimations.