

Where the veil is thin

Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on*
Revelation 21:1-6

This weekend many churches will celebrate All Saints' Day, while All Souls' was commemorated on Friday. These feasts give us a glimpse of eternity, of the thin veil between heaven and earth. We struggle for words to describe it, because we can only see in terms of what we already know. Today's passage from Revelation gives us some clues, however. St John sees heaven with all the wonder of a bride meeting her husband. There's nothing lonely about heaven. It's about home – the place where God lives, with mortals, for ever. It is a city, but it is holy instead of dangerous and terrifying. It is a place of relationship, of mortals with one another and God. God dwells with us, wiping away all the tears of the past, restoring goodness and life. Here everything wrong is put right, every hurt healed. Here even death, the ending that we can never escape, is finished. There is no more death, nor

hunger, nor thirst. There is no more poverty, nor brokenness, nor pain. This vision tells us that there is only one thing that lasts for ever, and that is the truth of Emmanuel – God with us. This eternal truth is not just for us – it is also for all those who have gone ahead, and for those yet to come. It is the one solid certainty in a fragile world. ☺

Eternal God, who holds earth and heaven together in a continuous stream of love, give us the grace to know and feel you with us today and for all eternity. Amen.

Finding
God on the
smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Often I'm asked which is my favourite animal or bird on our smallholding and I usually give a very quick answer that depends on what I'm doing at the time. Watching a pig eat a tomato and get pips in its eyebrows and juice all

over its face and front legs is magic – you can't be gloomy after that! Sheep smell lovely and want to rub their faces on your trousers and nibble the cords of your waterproof coat. Poultry are inquisitive and want to join in with whatever you're doing, including standing in a freshly dug hole where you thought you'd plant a tree. It's so hard to make a choice! But then why do I have to make a choice? Instead I can rejoice in their differences, handle the awkward times with patience and love them to bits – as we commemorate the wonderful variety of human life at All Saints' and All Souls' tide. ☺

“As the first Adam's sweat surrounds my face, May the last Adam's blood my soul embrace.”

John Donne

The A-Z of healthy living
Z is for zany
vision of hopeSr Thérèse Garman
concludes her series
taking us through the
alphabet

“I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.” (Ezekiel 37:5)

Ezekiel has a vision of a valley of dry bones. “Can these bones live?” God asks. We ourselves have “dry-bone” days, when we are dispirited, without spirit. Acknowledging

these may be challenging – we wear masks, pretending that we never let things get us down. At these times, we tend to rely on human resources – working or partying harder, perhaps – but more is needed. What irrigates and revives Ezekiel's valley of bones is that divine Spirit that helps us rise up and live.

This vision is not about life after death, but life before death. By the power of the Spirit, this present life can be full and fruitful. When in that dry valley of bones we need renewal, a fresh encounter with God in prayer. In the bone yard of this world we need to ask the Father to refresh and revive us with Jesus, who is the water of eternal life. ☺

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice 851139

Session Clerk: Nicol 811242

Kirk Information

There is a loop system. Adjust hearing aids to benefit. Switch off phones. They cause interference with the organ. Thank you

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to meet in the hall at the back of the church, after the service, for a cup of tea or coffee.

Intimations

Tuesday - 7- 8pm : Fellowship

Tuesday - 8pm – Choir

Thursday – 10am – 12noon Community Café in the kirk hall

Remembrance Day -11th Nov: a wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Orphir war memorial at 11am, please gather at 10.55am. A Remembrance Day service will follow in the Kirk. There will be a retiring collection for the Poppy Scotland appeal. A wreath laying ceremony will be held at the Stenness war memorial at 1pm.

Readings:

Psalm 146

Mark 12:38–44

Hebrews 9:11–14

Hymns

201 Stand up and Bless the Lord

771 If you believe and I believe

120 God we praise you, God we bless you...

100 O Lord, thou art my God and King...

238 Lord, bring the day to pass...

193, God is love: his the care

Doxology

786 - May the God of peace