

A family likeness

Heather Smith *reflects on* John 14:8-17

People who have grown up without knowing their birth parents often want to find them, even though it can be a difficult, emotional process. It may not even be possible to find them, or to find who they were but that they have died. This desire to know our family origins extends beyond our parents – there is a huge interest in family history, with genealogy websites and even the celebrity programme *Who Do You Think You Are?*

If you find out about your long-lost ancestors it may bring some surprises. If you have turned up something unexpected or even scandalous it could cause family conflict. But if you find a living parent the emotional consequences can be huge.

The disciples get similarly obsessive when, just before today's reading begins, Jesus talks about the Father: "If you know me, you will know my Father also." You can hear the frustration as Philip says: "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Sometimes we find astonishing similarities with a relative we have never met before. Jesus' response is that anyone who has seen him has seen the Father. If we find striking resemblances to our only-just-met human relatives, Jesus resembles the Father even more, because the doctrine of the Trinity tells us there is no difference. If the Father seems elusive we need only look to Jesus. ☺



God our Father, in you we live and move and have our being. Give us the grace, compassion and faith to treat all your children as our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Animals of the Bible

The dove

by Caroline Fletcher

Biblical doves may not be have been white. Wild doves looked more like pigeons, hence Psalm 68's description of their plumage as "silver" and "green gold". Indeed, the original biblical languages use the same words for both pigeon and dove.

The dove released from Noah's ark returned bearing an olive leaf,

showing that the flood and God's judgement were over. This inspired early Christians to carve doves holding olive branches onto tombs, symbolising peace with God.

Pigeons and turtle doves were used in the sacrificial system as sin offerings, mainly by poorer people who could not afford to sacrifice a lamb. After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph offered this poor person's sacrifice, reflecting their modest circumstances.

The Gospels describe the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus at his baptism "like a dove", so doves also symbolise the Spirit: impressive for a bird we might dismiss as only a pigeon! ☺

“When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life.

David Wilkerson (1931-2011), author and evangelist

The Camino

Rob Hayter concludes his account of walking the Camino in Spain

They say it's better to travel than to arrive, and walking the Camino is about so much more than arriving in Santiago. That said, though, the journey's end is a great joy. Standing in the Praza do Obradoiro by the cathedral alongside many other pilgrims was a time of great solidarity and celebration.

Obradoiro is the Galician word for "workshop" and this

was where hundreds of stonemasons worked on this impressive Romanesque building. Construction began in 1075 and the last stone was laid in 1122, with later Gothic and Baroque additions in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. No doubt, after a day's work, the workers were as tired and dusty as we were.

"What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?" asks Luke. My prayer is that at the end of my earthly pilgrimage I will have become a bit kinder, more considerate and thoughtful. ☺

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/ORPHIRANDSTENNESS

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 8 pm: Choir

Thursday 10am – 12noon: Community Café in kirk hall.

Sunday 30th June: The annual joint service with Flotta and Hoy and Walls will take place in Flotta. Details to follow.

Reading: John 14:8-27 Acts 2:1-21

Hymns:
584 Like fireworks in the night
608 Spirit of truth and grace
598 Come Holy Ghost our hearts inspire
625 O thou who camest from above
127 O worship the King

Prayers of Intercession

L: Spirit of God,

All: Hear our prayer.

Doxology: (786)

May the God of peace go with us as we travel from this place;
May the love of Jesus keep us firm in hope and full of grace.