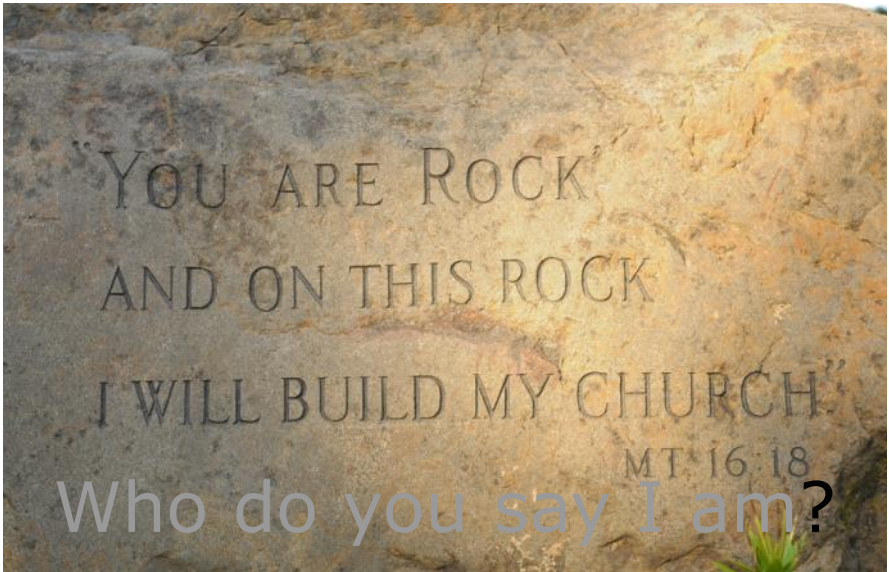


Ardoch and Blackford Parish Churches

Sunday 23rd August 2020



Welcome to our worship today as we consider the question "Who do people say I am?"

Our first hymn is I the Lord of Sea and Sky

You Tube Video sung by Alan Kerry

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
Who will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

Mairi leads us in prayer

Let us pray

Who is he?

A man from long ago?

A story in a book?

An idea of better times to come?

A way to live our lives?

A guide through a troubled world?

A philosophy to teach us?

Who is he?

How do we describe the Son of Man?

Not rich,

not warlike,

not angry or loud,

not a ruler,

or a tyrant.

Who is he?

What can we say about the Son of Man?

Who comes among us,

lives with us,

hurts with us,

feels with us,

dies with us,

loves with us.

Who is he?

He is Christ!

The messiah,

God incarnate.

Our saviour,
our guide,
our light,
our life.
Our everything
Amen

Let us say together the Lord's Prayer

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, the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen

Phyllis McLeod reads from Matthew Chapter 16 v 13 –20

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[c] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[e] loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**The hymn Phyllis has chosen is Courage
Brother do not Stumble, a favourite hymn
from her school assembly days and she clearly
remembers her Headmaster’s admonition
“Remember, always do what is right”**

Mairi’s Reflection is based on “Who do people say I am?”

Whose Questions?

“Who do people say I am?”

It was your question, Jesus!

Your question to us,

not mine to you or anyone else!

It was you who asked what people are saying about you,

who they think you are.

I had the feeling it was a leading question;

a loaded question;

not really the question you were heading towards.
Of course people think you're like another John,
preaching repentance and talking to crowds
out in the wild places.
Or Elijah—with your command over natural forces
and the miracles you've done.
Or Jeremiah—not being popular with the authorities
and not appeasing people.
But you're more than a prophet
and greater than any other teacher.
And you don't care much what people make of you.
You do your work with a passion.
"But who do you say I am?"
Your question, remember!
Not one I was asking you.
What kind of answer did you expect?
We could all echo what our people had been
saying...
you're like John, yes, like Elijah, like Jeremiah...
but more, more than any of them.
But not one of us said anything.
Except me, opening my mouth as usual,
and still remembering what you'd said
about how it is what comes out of us that shows us
up.
The thing is, it felt like it didn't come from me,
well, not just from my own thinking,
but something bigger, deeper,
sudden but so sure.
You are the Messiah.
You are the Son of the living God.
And you confirmed I could not have known it,
said it, from my own ordinary human knowing
alone.
But you had more to say.
"Who do you say I am?"

Jesus, I never asked you that question!
Whether I wanted to hear it or not,
you told me who you say that I am.
"Simon," you said, "you are Peter—'the rock'."
And I wanted to say I am no rock, Jesus!
I am no foundation stone for any building!
I am no starting place for a community!
Why would you trust me with a set of keys,
let alone the ones that open doors
to your Kingdom and to heaven?
Why would you give me the authority,
the responsibility,
to make choices on earth that will be echoed in
heaven?
But if I can be so sure of who you really are,
how can I doubt what you say of who I really am?
That's a whole other question, Jesus...

Amen

Our final hymn is Tell out my Soul

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age to same;
his holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,

the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

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Benediction

Now go with the Lord's name imprinted on your hearts. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Notices

We welcome Mairi back from her holiday. It is now Gordon Roy's turn to take a very well earned rest from the very time consuming digital production of all our Services. Mairi and he have worked very hard to make our worship meaningful and appropriate for this trying period of our lives.

Ardoch Parish Church Scottish Charity Number SC000139

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