

Ardoch Parish Church

Sunday 1st November 2020

Rev Mairi Perkins welcomes everyone to this Sunday's service held on All Saints' Day.



This evening there will be a Joint live Zoom Communion Service with Blackford at 7.00pm.

Join Zoom Meeting using this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84499365864>

Join by phone on: 0131 460 1196

Meeting ID: 844 9936 5864

Our first hymn is "For all the saints who from their labours rest"

"For All the Saints" was written as a processional hymn by the Anglican Bishop of Wakefield, William Walsham How Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Sine Nomine

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,

Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;

Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;

Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.

Alleluia, Alleluia

O blest Communion, fellowship divine

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine.

Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine

Alleluia, Alleluia

And when the strife is fierce and warfare long

Steals on the ear the distant triumph song

And hearts are brave again and arms are strong

Alleluia, Alleluia

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,

Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:

Alleluia, Alleluia

Let us say together the Creed Signed in Makaton by Becky George.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

born of the virgin Mary.

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

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.

**Irene Robertson reads from
Psalm 119 v 89-106**

Irene introduces the next hymn which is
“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet”
Sung by Amy Grant

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, Think I've lost my way, Still you're there right
beside me.

And nothing will I fear As long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and
a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I will not
forget Your love for me and yet My heart forever is wandering. Jesus
be my guide, And hold me to your side, I will love you to the end.
Nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and
a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path, And a light unto my path. You're the light unto my
path.

**The title of Mairi's sermon is
Our relationship with God's Word**

I am sure that probably all of you have used a
compass in the past. A compass is used to find the
right direction to get you to where you want to go.
The compass has four main directions, they are

North, South, East and West. The needle of the compass always points North. If the needle sometimes pointed North and at other times it pointed to the South, East, or West, you would never be able to use the compass to find your way. You would wander around, hopelessly lost. The compass must always point in the right direction if we are going to use it to guide us. So what about life, what about our day to day routines which we follow. Where can we look for help and direction in our own particular situation.

When we are trying to find our way through the journey of life we need to remember that God has given us a spiritual compass to guide our path. That guide is the Bible, God's Holy Word. The truth that we find in the Bible never changes. It will always point us in the same direction. It will always point us to Jesus. We will never be lost if we follow its directions.

It is however so easy just to depend on ourselves, to think that we have all the answers, to think that we know best.

Some people use their feelings to help them to decide what they should do. That's no good. Our feelings change from day to day and they cannot be trusted. Besides that, just because we feel good about something doesn't mean that it is the right thing to do.

We often base our decisions on bad advice. Sometimes we decide to do something just because everyone else is doing it. It's popular or we may be bullied into doing something we would rather not. That is no good either. Just because

everyone else is doing it doesn't mean that it is the right thing to do, does it? Tomorrow everyone might be doing something else. Sometimes we just want to take the easy route and go in the direction that looks the least bother to us.

There is only one thing that we can trust to always point us in the right direction, and that is God's word which we find in the Bible. It will always point to Jesus and Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by me."

Father, we thank you for giving us the Bible to be our guide through life. Help us to remember that we can always depend on the Bible to point us in the right direction.

Amen

Let us pray

Spirit of Christ,

Accompany us, the People of the Way,

As we journey from doubt to hope,

From despair to joy,

From darkness to light,

From death to life.

Accompany us, the People of the Way,

Over the bright paths and upland roads,

Where evidence of Your glory is all around us

And easy to see.

Accompany us, the People of the Way,

In the dark valleys and bleak places,

Where our uncertainty and our anxiety

About Who You are and what we believe,

Is overwhelming.

Spirit of Christ,

In brightness and in darkness,

When we cannot see You, may we hear You;

When we cannot hear You, may we feel You.
Help us to believe
That each step along the way is not one
Ventured alone;
But that You are there, to guide and protect,
To nurture and to comfort.
Lord of the journey,
Be with our nation in these days;
travel with the decision-makers and future-shapers
In the high places of power and influence
In every walk of life.
Lord of the journey,
Be with our Church,
And our Presbyteries and Parishes,
And all places where ministry and mission is shared,
To strengthen people for the road,
And lead them into places of inclusion and encounter,
Welcoming each one as each one meets with You.
Receive our grateful thanks as we journey on the way,
For You go before and beside us,
In Jesus' Name we pray.
Amen.

Our closing hymn is “Glorious things of thee are spoken”

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove;
Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?

Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering
Showing that the Lord is near
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day
Safe, they feed upon the manna
Which he gives them whilst they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity—
I will glory in Thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

New Scottish Hymns Band is a gospel-hearted music ministry based in Glasgow. Donation given for production of this recording.

Benediction

Now go, with the spirit of the Lord in your hearts. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Intimations

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Change to Private Prayer arrangements

As the days grow shorter and colder, the Kirk Session has decided not to open the Church for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from this week onwards.

Proposed opening of Church for Sunday Worship

However, if Scottish Government's regulations permit the Kirk Session would like to arrange services for the season of Advent in the Church starting on 29th November at 12.00am. To comply with social distancing this enables the minister to be in the church as the congregation arrive. More details will be supplied in the coming weeks.

British Legion

The local British Legion Branch is organising a Remembrance event at the War Memorial on Wednesday 11th November at 11am. There will be a wreath and poppy cross laying ceremony at the memorial. Every name on the memorial will have a cross laid in their memory.

To conform with COVID19 rules, there will be yellow chalk marks for maintaining social distancing or you may stand on the grass in Gentlecroft.

As there is no door to door collection this year, you can donate to the Poppy Scotland through their website.

www.poppyscotland.org.uk

There are also poppies on sale in the Braco Shop and Braco Coffee.

A personal appeal from Ann Spiers

The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal is no longer being run out of Crieff. This gave me pause for thought.

Blythswood boxes went abroad to many countries, But what about our country? In view of Covid 19, people are losing jobs and their homes....why don't we give locally, as well.

So I contacted the Salvation Army in Stirling. I am a huge fan of the SA and have donated for many years. They will be delighted to cooperate by receiving gifts which they will distribute to needy families, the homeless, elderly in need, etc.

My plan is, in view of the Church being mainly closed, to collect at my house and when I have a fair amount I will deliver to Stirling. Gifts should be of warm socks, gloves, scarves etc. just like we put in the boxes...for all ages. Toiletries, toys for children, household items, etc. Please mark on your parcel the age group.

This not a scheme for getting rid of your junk .. it is Christmas and a time for Christian giving.

Please join me as you did with the Shoeboxes.

Thank you

Ardoch Parish Church Scottish Charity Number SC000139

ardochparishchurch.org

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