

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday 9th May 2021

Climate Sunday 2021

Granton



The Church of Scotland

WELCOME BACK!

**in person | on Zoom
on Facebook | on Youtube**

Welcome to church this Sunday morning where we gather as a community rooted in Jesus, worshipping him. Whether in person or online everyone is welcome to share in the worship experience together.

One body made of many parts we gather from all over the UK and beyond to affirm anew our faith in Jesus.

If gathering in the building, please follow the guidance of the Welcome Team who will help you navigate your way around what we can and cannot do in terms of worship. Things might be a bit different from what you are used to. Please be patient and arrive early.

Services will be different

For Everyone

Yes to worshipping God
Yes to meeting & joining others
Yes to praying
Yes to gathering round the word
Yes to hearing the word opened up
Yes to being inspired to honour Jesus with our lives

For those in the building

Yes to wearing a mask
Yes to social distancing
No to sitting where you always sat
No to sitting within 2 meters of others
No to singing hymns



Join this Sunday's service at 10.30am on Zoom

By computer/smartphone - go to grantonchurch.org.uk and follow the link.

By telephone - just follow these steps:

- Phone 0131 460 1196
- Then enter the meeting ID : 982 2448 2457
- Then enter #
- Then enter the meeting password : 905841
- Then enter #

You will now be able to hear the service and you will also be able to speak to everyone as well if you wish.

Thoughts for The Day (Weekly Digest)

Monday May 3: Sarah Smith

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. Matthew 26: 14 – 16

This is a story we know. We have walked through this story, and remember when Judas Iscariot went a different path from the rest of the disciples. He has been with Jesus and the other disciples throughout Jesus’ ministry, and then we reach this part in the story when he chooses a different path. Instead of keeping his focus on following and continuing on the teachings and mission of Jesus, he chooses money. When we focus on having earthly wealth over everything else, we lose sight of what is really important.

Prayer: Loving God, in a world that tells us to focus on having lots of money in order to be successful, you teach us that what really matters is serving you through serving the least of these. Help us to focus on serving you through our actions rather than gathering monetary wealth to determine our worth. You remind us that we are your beloved, so let us

fully embrace this in all aspects of our lives. Amen.

Action: Take time this week to remind yourself you are God’s beloved and this matters more than having lots of money.

Tuesday May 4: Norman Smith

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. Matthew 26: 17 – 19

Festivals and Community Rituals help define cultures by rooting them in their history. Whilst there is a main theme you will often find families bring their own quirks and traditions. Think of Christmas, we all celebrate it, but we all do so in slightly different ways. Passover celebrated Israel’s freedom from slavery through the death of every first born in Egypt, approx. 2000 years before. This was one of the defining moments in the creation of their nation so celebrating this was a big thing each year.

Have you ever sat down to think about the festivals and community rituals that define who you are? Christmas, Easter, Burns Day, May Holiday, Summer Holidays, Sunday Lunch, Church going, football, tv viewing schedules, etc., etc. All of these and more are rituals (recurring times we do specific things in specific ways). Our lives are actually infused with rituals though we often don't realise that is what they are. Is there any time of activity people know not to phone you because they know you are engaged in that thing? That is a ritual! When you look at your rituals, where is God in there?

Prayer: Father I know I am a creature of habit. I have thing I do, times I do them and ways I do them. I know these are my personal rituals. Please help me to make space for you amongst them all.

Action: List the rituals you are engaging in today, everything from brushing your teeth to watching tv. List where God is in them.

Wednesday May 5: Ian Moir

When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"
Matthew 26: 20-22

For tension and drama, this scene in The Upper Room is right up there with 'Line of Duty!

Jesus and his disciples are having what is to be their 'Last Supper' together. Emotions are already running high. When Jesus was washing his disciples' feet, there was quite a confrontation when it came to Peter's turn. Peter would have none of it!

Suddenly, Jesus lands a 'bombshell' in their midst. "One of you will betray me." Whatever was happening at the time, this was a real 'game changer'. It seems that Judas has been able to hide his plan to betray Jesus from his fellow disciples, but, of course, not from Jesus. Jesus is offering Judas the opportunity to undo his evil plan – giving him a second chance.

Immediately, the disciples are filled with anxiety and dread. Who could be contemplating such a deed? They are so busy seeking reassurance from Jesus that they are not the one, that they fail to work out what is going on. If not, why did they let Judas leave to carry out his wicked plan?

We have all betrayed Jesus – by failing to speak up and say we follow Jesus or stand against wrongdoing and injustice. We have all been guilty of walking past 'on the other side' and failing to stop to help or listen.

Often, we make these wrong

decisions on the spur of the moment, but there is sometimes the chance to put things right – by speaking up later in the conversation or by retracing our steps and helping out.

Prayer: Jesus we are sorry about the number of times we have betrayed you and failed to live up to your standard. Thank you for giving us second chances and give us the courage to do the right thing.

Action: Try to be ready when the opportunity comes to show ‘whose we are and whom we serve’

Thursday May 6: Mary Macleod Rivett

Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?” Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

Matthew 26: 23 – 25

Jesus and his disciples, his closest friends, were eating their last supper together, in a private room. It was an intensely emotional time, particularly for Jesus, who knew what was coming. One of the most difficult things that he was having to face was the fact that his death would result from a betrayal. One of these people,

his dearest companions, would betray him.

Judas was the disciple who took care of the money, and he had gone to the priests to betray Jesus after Jesus had accepted the woman who poured perfume over him, a waste of money that the disciples were unhappy about. Money was clearly important to him – he accepted 30 days wages, 30 pieces of silver, to betray Jesus. Jesus showed him, in this conversation, that he knew what was going on. He didn’t hide from the conflict or ignore the betrayal. Judas had decided that money was worth more than Jesus.

We live in a society where money is very important. We need it to live, but we also assume that things that make money are good, business is good, capitalism is good. It’s very easy for us to end up thinking that money is more important than it is. It’s just a way of exchanging things, but for Judas, it was more important than a dear friend and teacher, more important than truth.

Prayer: Beloved Lord, friend and God, please show me if I have become too attached to money and the things it can get for me. Help me to recognise where I can use the money you’ve given me in ways that give you glory and honour you. Amen

Action: when you check your bank accounts or do your budgets, think about how you make that money, and what God might want you to do with your income.

Friday May 7: David Moodie

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Matthew 26: 26

Bread is the quintessential everyday food. While some people are into their fancy sourdoughs, most of the bread we consume is pretty plain. White and brown slices we use to encase our sandwiches, cover with marmalade, or dunk in soup. Simple, filling, nothing to write home about. This was even more true in Jesus day when bread was a staple of ordinary folk's diets. Bread was cheap, filling, easily available. Nothing fancy, just plain old bread.

But in Jesus's hand a loaf of bread was transformed into something more. It became a symbol of his body, and sign of the sacrifice to come, and a ritual that would be performed every week since for nearly 2000 years. At that meal, and at every Holy Communion since, the ordinary is transformed into the extra-ordinary. The most everyday of foods made into something sacred. This is Jesus's power, that in him the ordinary can go on to do incredible

things. If you are ever feeling you aren't special or important enough to make a difference, remember what Jesus was able to do with just a loaf of bread.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank for the gift of bread and wine. You take the ordinary and you transform it into something incredible. I pray that ordinary though I am, you will work through me. That your love will continue to shape me, and that I will be able to reflect that love to others.

Action: What ordinary thing might God be trying to work through in your life.

Saturday May 8: Caroline Lockerbie

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26: 27 – 29

A favourite memory from my student days is having been part of a Passover Seder. That ancient Hebrew tradition is the foundation of our Christian Communion celebration. Four times during the meal a prayer is said and wine is consumed to remember God's four-fold promise. When Jesus took the cup he was honouring the promise

of God to 'redeem'. So with His blood He 'redeemed', or 'made whole', by forgiving the sins that separated people from God and from one another. Separate we cannot fully love or fully live.

In the expression 'blood of the covenant' Jesus is using blood as a symbol for life itself. We need blood to live, we need blood 'pumping' to live. There was surely excitement when the disciples thought that they were being served this life giving wine. Then Jesus shattered their enthusiasm by saying it was being taken away until they could share it again in the Father's Kingdom. What good was a promise of life in this earthly realm if they couldn't tap into it? Jump ahead seven weeks to Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was sent to establish the Church. There was to be a form of the Father's Kingdom here on earth. In time Christians came to realize that the Spirit was a new form of the 'blood of the covenant', a power from God to be a source of life and love for the world.

Tomorrow is Mother's Day in Canada. When I lived in Scotland I had to make sure that I purchased a card during Lent, then set it aside to ensure that I had one to send to my mother come May. This year my mother will be celebrating at the heavenly table. Yet, while on earth she lived out

Jesus' promise of wholeness through her passion, her honesty and her care for everyone. As we read the ancient words of scripture let us not put them aside for some future time, but use them right now to be people of wholeness and life for our world.

Prayer: We pray to God, the source of life, asking for forgiveness. Take away anything sinful that we hold in our hearts. May our redemption give us the eyes to see injustices around us and the wisdom to be the caring people God's covenant would have us be. As Jesus brings us to life may we be His helpers in his plan to bring everyone to life.

Action: Take part in an online/virtual Communion Service. Yes, it will likely be weird at first, but we are living in a weird time. Let the familiar ceremony be for you a connection to your community. Let the words be an opportunity for the Spirit to bring a new energy into your life.

Sunday May 9: David Moodie

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26: 30

Singing has deep roots in our faith. Almost every Christian community has, in one way or another, incorporated music into their worship. Our Scottish Presbyterian tradition used to be rooted in the

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singing of Psalms. Now we enjoy a wide range of Hymns that were passed down through the generation, each time being tweaked and reinterpreted, and we have new songs that find new and creative ways to express our faith. We sing together because unites us as a community, allows us to express ourselves to God in ways that words alone would struggle to, and because some of the songs in our hymnbook are simple beautiful pieces of art.

One of the things we have missed from our year of lockdown has been singing. Not being able to sing together has been a real loss for many

of us. But we will sing again, just as Jesus and his friends did.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!” – Psalm 100 v 1-2

Prayer: God of music and song, thank you for giving us the ability to sing, make music, and express ourselves. Thank you for the gifts of art and creativity. Today I will use my voice in whatever way I can to worship you and celebrate the good things you have blessed us with.

Action: Listen to a piece of music that helps you feel close to God.

Farewell Sarah! Since being with us for the past year we are pleased to announce that Sarah is moving on to be minister of her own church after the congregation of Stonehaven Carronside voted unanimously in her favour! Her induction is to take place on Thursday 3rd June in Carronside. Due to Covid restrictions we are not yet able to say whether visitors will be able to attend. Please keep Sarah and her new congregation in your prayers at this time.



Our Church Values

Everything we do is rooted in **JESUS CHRIST**

EQUALITY is based on who you are and not what you have

EVERYONE is valued and everyone has gifts that can be offered to God

COMMUNITY brings with it respect across the generations and cultures

Small Groups

Want to meet other people and explore faith together? If yes then this is for you. We have set up small groups that will meet regularly for around 40 mins. If you are interested in joining please contact Sarah. Her email is on the panel opposite.

Pray it forward

We want everyone in the church family to be prayed for. Are you willing to spend some time at home praying for other people? If you are you will be given a list of people to pray for on a weekly basis. You may know them, you may not, they will all be part of our church family. Let Norman or one of the Ministry team know if you will be part of the prayer team.

Pray together

Thursday June 10th at 7pm on Zoom

Join with others online as we spend an hour praying together for those we know and the world we live in. You will need a pen, some paper and a candle.

Next Sunday - Celebrate Together

In person or online at 10.30am

For more info about anything in the Bulletin,



snap the QR
code or visit

grantonchurch.org.uk

If you have access to the internet, check www.grantonchurch.org.uk and click SUBSCRIBE to get Thought for the Day delivered every day.

If you don't have access to the internet and would like to receive this by post, or want to update your contact details please call Norman on 0131 551 2159

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Climate & Re-Use Project

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