



## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kelso

[www.standrewskelso.co.uk](http://www.standrewskelso.co.uk)

Charity Number SC006302



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**"Socially Distant, Spiritually Close"**

**Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Third Sunday of Lent**

**Sadly, our services in Church are suspended for the time being but our online services will continue, and the transcript will be sent by email, or post.**

Website: [www.standrewskelso.co.uk](http://www.standrewskelso.co.uk)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsKelso](https://www.youtube.com/c/StAndrewsKelso)

**So, welcome to our service, wherever and however you join us, and remember that Grace and I are available at any time to talk on the phone or Facetime or Messenger or Text.**

**With my love and prayers,  
Bob**

**The Peace of the Lord be always with us.**

**Opening Hymn: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness**

- 1. O worship the Lord  
in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him,  
his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience  
and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him:  
the Lord is his name.**
- 2. Low at his feet lay  
thy burden of carefulness:  
high on his heart  
he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows,  
and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps  
as may best for thee be.**

**3. Fear not to enter  
his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth  
thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty,  
and love in its tenderness,  
these are the off'rings  
to lay on his shrine.**

**4. These, though we bring them  
in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept  
for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give  
for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling  
and hope for our fear.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word and Intercessions The Rev'd Canon Bob King**

### **The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **The Summary of the Law**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind  
and with all your strength."  
The second is this:  
"Love your neighbour as yourself."  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

God is love and we are his children.  
There is no room for fear in love.  
We love because he loved us first.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**God our Father, we confess to you  
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ**

**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**We are truly sorry.**

**Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil,  
for the sake of your Son who died for us,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

**God, who is both power and love,  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy.**

### **Collect**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Intercessions**

**Bob** will lead prayers for the Church and the World, and we are invited to bring our own concerns before God, including:

**Coronavirus:** all who are suffering from it, worrying about it, treating it, researching it, and all who are working to keep us safe, and keep us fed.

**Those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time, including :** Maud Jones, Ann Hay Bennet, Margaret Smith, Christian Kennedy, John Howarth, and all who mourn them.

### **Readings:**

#### **Psalm 19: 7-14 (The Message)**

The revelation of GOD is whole and pulls our lives together.

The signposts of GOD are clear and point out the right road.

The life-maps of GOD are right, showing the way to joy.

The directions of GOD are plain and easy on the eyes.

GOD's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold, with a lifetime guarantee.

The decisions of GOD are accurate down to the nth degree.

God's Word is better than a diamond, better than a diamond set between emeralds.

You'll like it better than strawberries in spring, better than red, ripe strawberries.

There's more: God's Word warns us of danger and directs us to hidden treasure.

Otherwise how will we find our way? Or know when we play the fool?

Clean the slate, God, so we can start the day fresh!

Keep me from stupid sins, from thinking I can take over your work;  
Then I can start this day sun-washed, scrubbed clean of the grime of sin.  
These are the words in my mouth; these are what I chew on and pray.  
Accept them when I place them on the morning altar,  
O God, my Altar-Rock, God, Priest-of-My-Altar.

**This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God**

**This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 2: 13-22 (NRSV)**

**Glory to Christ our Saviour**

### **Jesus Cleanses the Temple**

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.

<sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.

<sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

<sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

<sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"

<sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

<sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel  
Praise to Christ our Lord**

**Reflection: The Rev'd Grace Redpath**

### **The Heart of Worship**

During the last twelve months the question I've heard asked most frequently by my clergy colleagues is: 'Will the church change as a result of the pandemic?'

Can we go on as we once were? Will people want to come back again? After all, it's so much easier to tune into 'church' online at whatever time of the day or night suits us. We can even watch in our pyjamas!

What we **have** learned is that we can communicate the message of God's love far beyond our church buildings using the technology available to us. And that people who would never darken the door of a church can watch in the privacy of their own home. So, that's a plus.

But somehow, I think we need to look at that question – will the church change as a result of the pandemic - a bit more deeply. Does it need to change? Or maybe the question should be: What does it mean to be the church of Jesus?

The coronavirus pandemic has stopped us in our tracks. Not just the church, but the whole world in ways we could never have imagined.

How then, can we make some sense of all that we've been through over the past year? A year of searching questions about life and death. A year of grieving. A year of mourning. A year of lamenting, when we've brought the pain and mess of the world into the presence of God. A year when we've asked 'Why?' many times over and we haven't got an answer.

Where does it leave us now? Maybe we need to remind ourselves what God is calling the church to be.

Irish priest and poet, John O'Donohue wrote, *"To live a truly creative life, we always need to cast a critical look at where we presently are, attempting always to discern where we have become stagnant and where new beginning might be ripening. There can be no growth if we do not remain open and vulnerable to what is new and different."*

Creativity, by its very nature, is always producing something new and fresh. But it's a risky and exposing place to be. Almost without realising it, have we become stagnant in how we are church? Are our rituals and traditions enabling people to encounter the living Jesus?

Maybe our Gospel story of today holds a clue as to what God is wanting the church **not** to be.

Picture the scene as Jesus arrives at the Temple in Jerusalem, the church building of his day. You can imagine how he must have felt as he looked around at the money-changers and touts making the most of their opportunity to trade in peak season in his Father's house. Well, he did a 'Bob', didn't he? And we who live and work with Bob know what that looks like!

Jesus was furious, outraged. Tables were upturned, coins bounced across the floor, animals bleated and ran wildly all over the place, pigeons squawked, and panicked doves flapped their wings, as Jesus, waving his whip cried out, *"Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"* Absolute chaos!

Incensed, Jesus was like the prophets of old, challenging the temple authorities 'business-as-usual' attitude, unwilling to change their ways. The religious leaders were making a mockery of the Jewish faith that Jesus had grown up with. They were ignoring the warnings of God's judgement if they did not heed the words of the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures - what we call the Old Testament - to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with their God. (Micah 6.8)

They had completely lost sight of what their faith was about. Corrupt practices, over a period of time, had subtly crept in. They were exploiting the pilgrims coming to worship at the Temple. Oh yes, they still celebrated the feast days - the Passover commemorating the Exodus of their enslaved people under the leadership of Moses, and the like. But their celebrations were now considered hollow and meaningless. It was all hypocrisy in God's eyes. And God was heartily sick of it. (Amos 5.21-24)

What Jesus was saying was that the old way of doing faith was no longer appropriate. The heart of their faith, of what true worship meant, had been lost in empty ritual. He was confronting the people of God with a deeply uncomfortable truth: this was a moment for them to re-assess.

As a result of the pandemic then are we too being given the opportunity to reassess?

Lent is one of the seasons in the church year when we are encouraged to take the time to reassess, to reflect, to review our lives. To open ourselves to God and ask where we need to change. Yet, it seems that we've been in a refining fire for a year now, a fire that has tried, tested and tempered us. Who will we be when we emerge from lockdown? What will the church be? What will rise from the ashes of coronavirus?

It would be so easy to trot out all the usual stuff. That we're to be a people of compassion, acceptance, love and hope. And that's true. But somehow right now that just doesn't cut it. We've all been through the mill. Many of us are feeling battered and bruised. Shadows of our former selves. We need to read and hear something that touches and heals our hurting and broken hearts. So that we, in turn, can identify with the pain and struggle of those around us. All pretence gone. Masks removed. Surely that's what the church is about.

Jesus was completely exposed when he died on the cross. Vulnerable. Powerless. His body broken...for the world, for us.

What Jesus did is something we remember regularly in the Eucharist when he said, 'This is my body, given for you.' A body that was broken, disfigured and disabled on the cross, marked by the raw wounds of nails and sword. But in that giving of his body to the world, and to us, we can find healing and love.

So, what of us, the church? We are called to be the body of Christ in the world.

There is such an emphasis in our culture on having perfect bodies and leading seemingly flawless lives. Indeed, there can be times when we appear as if we've got perfectly ordered lives; everything under control. In presenting a picture like that it may be that we are putting up a barrier to those who are dealing with the failures and limitations of real life. So, it's not surprising that many don't see the church as a place of refuge, a safe shelter and support. Irrelevant in 2021.

Surely then, it's when we live out the slow recovery of costly mistakes in a climate of forgiveness and acceptance; when we freely admit our need for and dependence on one another; and when we display, with honesty and transparency, our broken-open lives – not all neatly tied-up and resolved - that we become the church - a disabled body of people that a suffering world can relate to and with whom they can find life.

So, will the church change as a result of the pandemic? As long as we don't lose sight of the crucified **and** resurrected Jesus, and embody the life he showed us, by the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit then we will be the church we are called to be – his body in the world.

### **Song: The Heart of Worship**

**1. When the music fades  
All is stripped away  
And I simply come  
Longing just to bring  
Something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart**

#### **Bridge:**

**I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself  
Is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within through the way things appear  
You're looking into my heart**

**Chorus:**

**I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus**

**2. King of endless worth**

**No one could express how much You deserve  
Though I'm weak and poor  
All I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath**

**(Repeat bridge)**

**Chorus:**

**I'm coming back to the heart of worship  
And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus**

### **The Service continues with Eucharistic Prayer 3**

**Celebrated for us by The Rev'd Grace Redpath**

**Please join in the Communion anyway you would like to.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Hymn: Meekness and Majesty**

- 1. Meekness and majesty,  
manhood and deity,  
in perfect harmony,  
the Man who is God.  
Lord of eternity,  
dwells in humanity,  
kneels in humility  
and washes our feet.**

***O what a mystery,  
meekness and majesty.  
Bow down and worship  
, for this is your God,  
this is your God.***

**2. Father's pure radiance,  
perfect in innocence,  
yet learns obedience  
to death on a cross,  
Suff'ring to give us life,  
conq'ring through sacrifice,  
and as they crucify prays:  
'Father forgive.'**

**3. Wisdom unsearchable,  
God the invisible,  
love indestructible  
in frailty appears,  
Lord of infinity,  
stooping so tenderly,  
lifts our humanity  
to the heights of his throne.**

### **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**So, let us all go – or stay – in peace, to love and serve the Lord,  
wherever and however we can.  
In the name of Christ. Amen**