



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kelso

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Charity Number SC006302



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"Socially Distant, Spiritually Close"

Sunday March 14th 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

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

YouTube: 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: I watch the sunrise

I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,
casting its shadow near.
And on this morning, bright though it be,
I feel those shadows near me.

*But you are always close to me,
following all my ways.
May I be always close to you,
Following all your ways, Lord*

I watch the sunlight shine through the clouds,
warming the earth below.
And at the mid-day, life seems to say:
"I feel your brightness near me".

For you are always....

I watch the sunset fading away,
lighting the clouds with sleep.
And as the evening closes its eyes
I feel your presence near me.

For you are always.....

**I watch the moonlight guarding the night,
Waiting till morning comes.
The air is silent, earth is at rest -
Only your peace is near me.**

Yes, you are always...

The Liturgy of the Word and Intercessions The Rev'd Grace Redpath

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

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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

Grace 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 : Amy Lyell, Christopher Dormer, Brian Peach, Thomas Firth, George Cossar, David Stewart, William Kinghorn, Rory Machin, Stuart Hogg, Adelaide Anthony, Robert Jack, Robert Stephenson ,and all who mourn them.

Readings:

Exodus 2:1-10 (The Message)

Moses

2¹⁻³A man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman. The woman became pregnant and had a son. She saw there was something special about him and hid him. She hid him for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer she got a little basket-boat made of papyrus, waterproofed it with tar and pitch, and placed the child in it. Then she set it afloat in the reeds at the edge of the Nile.

4-6The baby's older sister found herself a vantage point a little way off and watched to see what would happen to him. Pharaoh's daughter came down to the Nile to bathe; her maidens strolled on the bank. She saw the basket-boat floating in the reeds and sent her maid to get it. She opened it and saw the child—a baby crying! Her heart went out to him. She said, "This must be one of the Hebrew babies."

7Then his sister was before her: "Do you want me to go and get a nursing mother from the Hebrews so she can nurse the baby for you?"

8Pharaoh's daughter said, "Yes. Go." The girl went and called the child's mother.

9Pharaoh's daughter told her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me. I'll pay you." The woman took the child and nursed him.

¹⁰After the child was weaned, she presented him to Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him as her son. She named him Moses (Pulled-Out), saying, "I pulled him out of the water."

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

**This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 19:25b-27
Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Jesus' mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.

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

Reflection: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

Today is the 4th Sunday of Lent.

This Sunday is often referred to as Mothering Sunday and sometimes, Refreshment Sunday.

The two names to me are linked.

Tradition has it that on this Sunday the young staff from the big houses were allowed to go home – well, after luncheon had been served anyway.

Often, they were told that they could take a cake that had been specially made in the kitchen as a gift for their mothers and the rest of the family that were awaiting them. Waiting often a long time to see them as days off were not very plentiful in those days.

It's a bit like the situation we are in today where we are not allowed to visit our families and we look forward with anticipation for the day to come when we can meet and hug, be in the same room, and, in some cases, meet new family members for the first time.

The cake that was traditionally made was a Simnel cake.

By chance I have one here (if you are reading this follow this link) for a picture

<https://www.agaliving.com/cooking/recipes/weekend-bake/simnel-cake>

Simnel cake is quite rich, baked with quality ingredients, and this made it an extra special gift as at this time of year food stocks were often low and so a sumptuous fruit cake was welcome on many different levels.

The topping is, of course, marzipan (love it or hate it) rich, almond-flavoured and full of calories.

On top there are 12 balls of marzipan to represent those who were at the Last Supper which we remember on Maundy Thursday. You will see on this cake that one of them is pushed off, the one representing Judas. Trying to take him out of the equation.

I don't think you can do that because Judas is an integral and pivotal part of the story of Jesus. If it were not for Judas the true identity of Jesus as the Son of Man may never have been revealed.

So, let's practice forgiveness and place him back with the family of disciples as they were at that time.

The young apprentices took the cake and maybe some money and other things that they had been given and shared them with their Mothers and family.

Tradition also tells us that they may have picked wildflowers on the way as well and so the gift of posies on Mothering Sunday was born.

I wonder how the people in the big houses survived that day when all their staff were away? Suddenly they would be without their Key Workers.

The people that they took for granted were not there.

The tasks that were quietly done in the background to ensure the smooth running of the house stopped.

Who was going to put the wood on the fire? Turn down the beds, bring up dinner, wash-up after dinner, draw the curtains, clean the shoes, cut the grass, Hoover up the crumbs?

Maybe, just maybe, they would notice all the things that were done on their behalf.

We have been praying during Lent on a daily basis for Key Workers.

Deciding who they were was really humbling. There are so many people who quietly get on and sort things out on our behalf.

This week we will be praying for chemists and pharmacists

Those who clear snow and salt our roads and pavements,

Mortuary staff, grave diggers and crematorium workers.

Benefit system administrators,

Butchers, bakers fishmongers and candlestick-makers

Today and every day we give thanks for them and the massive difference they make in our lives.

Our readings today are all about care.

They also feature women at the centre of that care although I know that men care as well.

A Levite couple had a child. A beautiful baby boy. They were delighted but were scared because the Pharaoh had decreed that all baby boys should be killed at birth.

The baby's mother saw something special in her son and so made the massive decision to ensure that he lived.

For a few months they hid him but as he grew it became an impossible task and so his Mum, ever creative, decided to place him into the hands of God.

She made a basket and placed it and the little boy into the River Nile.

Gosh – a massive risk or was it a massive step of faith?

A bit of both I would argue.

There was, of course, as I would say, a cunning plan

The baby's big sister, Miriam, was doing what big sisters do best and was looking out for her wee brother.

She was on hand when the Pharaoh's young daughter came to the river to bathe.

She spotted the basket floating, opened it up and hey presto there was a stunning baby boy.

With great courage, determination and drive Miriam got in front of the Princess and offered a solution as she saw that the girl was smitten and wanted to take the child home.

"I will get a Hebrew wet nurse for you, to care for the child" she offered.

The Pharaoh's daughter was well up for that and so Miriam ran off and got the natural mother, who if I have worked out the relationships correctly, must have been her own mother as well.

Wow! What a selfless act of love.

No greater love than laying down your own life for the life of another.

The baby's Mum rushed over, secured the position to wet nurse her own son and the Pharaoh's daughter gave him the name:

Moses – meaning **pulled-out** as she had pulled him out of the water.

No surprise then that this boy became the man who pulled the children of Israel out of bondage and led them to the promised land.

A great story of bravery, skill and compassion shown by many different people.

But orchestrated by Moses's mother

Compassion is central to the story of Jesus Christ.

Love, unconditional love and a true compassion for all humanity, ultimate forgiveness and acceptance are major components of the ministry of our Lord.

Jesus knew from the moment he was conceived that he was loved, valued and cherished by his parents, particularly his Mother.

Mary is a central figure and someone who Jesus listened to and usually did what he was told. She was always there or thereabouts, and I suspect there are 100's of stories and anecdotes that were not written about.

When I visited Nazareth a couple of years ago, I was deeply moved by a stained-glass window in the church built on the alleged site of Jesus' family home.

The window shows Mary and Jesus kneeling beside the bed of Joseph who was dying.

The deep love shown in the eyes of Mother and Son as they held Joseph by the hand as he took his final breaths is incredible. Human love poured out. Divine love shared.

Once again it was probably Mary who organised this.

I can imagine the phone call

"I don't care how many miracles you have to get done, get yourself back here NOW, your Dad needs you"

The skill of the Mother

The realism of the Mother.

And finally, we see the massive endorsement of Mary, woman and Mother, by her Son, one of his final acts before death.

He values her and all she has done so much that his final act is to ensure her on-going care.

Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother."

Mothering Sunday is a day of emotions.

For some it's a joy, for some it's a sadness

Some have regrets, some have anger.

Some have shattered dreams, and some have realised nightmares.

However, and whatever it means to you , it is a day of hope and feeding.

The richness of the simnel cake, the fruit, spices, eggs, sugar, flour all blended together.

The marzipan which is an extravagant addition put on top of the cake, then left in its basic state.

No icing, just the almost arid yellow of the confection adorns the gâteau.

And then, the simplicity of the spherical shapes depicting the attendees at the Last Supper, which we celebrate in the Eucharist, when our Spiritual Food is brought to life, simple but eternal.

Like the young people on Mothering Sunday, we all bring and receive gifts from those who have cared and still care for us as we reflect and remember the Motherness of God.

Amen

Song: A Little Love Graham Kendrick

**A little bit of love goes a long, long way
A little love, a little love.**

**A little bit of love and I'm on my way
A little love, a little love.**

**A long way but we'll get there together
A long way but we'll get there soon
Along the way we can lean on each other
A little love goes a long, long way'
A little love, a little love.**

**A little bit of love and the sun comes shining
A little love, a little love.
A little bit of kindness and someone's smiling
A little love, a little love.**

**A long way but we'll get there together
A long way but we'll get there soon**

Along the way we can lean on each other
A little love goes a long, long way.
A little love, a little love.

Little drops of rain can trickle down into a puddle
Then the puddles get together making streams that make a river
The rivers fill the valleys with a roaring and a rushing
Then the little drops of rain have made a
Wide, wide, wide, wide
Wide, wide ocean

A long way but we'll get there together
A long way but we'll get there soon
Along the way we can lean on each other
A little love goes a long, long way

A long way but we'll get there together
A long way but we'll get there soon
Along the way we can lean on each other
A little love goes a long, long way
A little love, a little love, a little love.

The Service continues with Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrated for us by The Rev'd Canon Bob King

Please join in the Communion anyway you would like to.

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast, you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
. Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit

into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

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**