

St Columba & the Northern Saints
HOLY COIMMUNION
17th October 2021

SONG - ALL I ONCE HELD DEAR

All I once held dear, built my life upon,
All this world reveres, and wars to own,
All I once thought gain I have counted loss;
Spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing You, Jesus,
Knowing You, there is no greater thing.
You're my all, You're the best,
You're my joy, my righteousness,
And I love You, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know You more,
To be found in You and known as Yours.
To possess by faith what I could not earn,
All-surpassing gift of righteousness.

(chorus)

Oh, to know the power of Your risen life,
And to know You in Your sufferings.
To become like You in Your death, my Lord,
So with You to live and never die.

(chorus)

WELCOME to St Columba's service for Sunday 17th October.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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 Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SONG - COME, PEOPLE OF THE RISEN KING

Come, people of the risen king,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the morning star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

(chorus)

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world His people sing –
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age:
'Our God is all in all!'

(chorus)

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins
in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with everyone.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT

God our light and our salvation:
illuminate our lives,
that we may see your goodness
in the land of the living,
and looking on your beauty
may be changed into the likeness
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SONG - O LORD YOUR TENDERNESS

O Lord, your tenderness,
Melting all my bitterness,
O Lord, I receive Your love.
O Lord, Your loveliness,
Changing all my ugliness,
O Lord, I receive Your love.
O Lord, I receive Your love,
O Lord, I receive Your love.

READING James 5

5 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. **2** Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. **3** Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. **4** Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. **5** You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. **6** You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. **8** You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. **9** Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

10 Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11** As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

12 Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple 'Yes' or 'No'. Otherwise you will be condemned.

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **14** Is anyone among you ill? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise

them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

¹⁷ Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. ¹⁸ Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, ²⁰ remember this: whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON (Rosie Hughes)

It was back in the Summer – well actually 5th September – when I kicked off our series of sermons looking at the book of James. Today we come to chapter 5 – the finale.

What has really struck me over the weeks have been two things. The first is that James' letter is very practical, he puts things in a way that is clear and memorable. Do you remember Chapter 1 – Listen, do it and persevere?

The other thing that has stuck me is how apt the writing is for modern times. Obviously James didn't know what our lives would be like but when we look at these passages with our 21st century eyes we can see many familiar situations.

In today's short chapter, written almost 2,000 years ago we see lessons that echo our modern lives today. How one person's selfishness can lead to disaster for others. How we need to be more patient, stress less and most importantly we need to be less self reliant and more God reliant.

Recently I was flicking through the TV channels, as you do, when my attention was attracted by a woman who was concerned about her spending. It turned out she spent around £100 on clothing, not a month but every week!! This was a programme where people are helped to spend their money more wisely. It transpired she wore the clothes once and put them in the wardrobe. Her partner wore designer clothes and was horrified when the team suggested buying similar labelled garments second hand! You'd think they'd suggested selling one of his kidneys!

In the days when James was writing clothing was also considered a status symbol, much like people today regard designer gear. The poor had clothes made from rough undyed fabric – they had very little and certainly would not have left them lying around or discarded them. In Acts 16 Paul introduces us to Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth, whom he described as a worshipper of God. Lydia lived in Thyatira, in the Roman province of Asia famous for its dye works, particularly the production of 'Royal' purple. Proverbs 31:32 describes royalty and nobility being clothed with fine linen and purple.

While being appropriately clothed according to decency and the weather, showy clothes could be regarded as unnecessary. How wasteful single use clothing is to the planet and disrespectful of those that produced them is, a subject for another time but is something I feel we should all consider. On Thursday I read a news article about farming fashion. No it's not the latest in wellies and overalls, but is about growing the raw materials to make clothing again. It's sustainable and good for the planet, for God's creation. Flax is grown to make the raw materials for a fine linen cloth and woad, which carpets the fields with beautiful blue flowers produces an indigo dye for blue cloth.

Designer clothing rots, fancy gadgets wear out and become obsolete, even precious metal rusts and corrodes. What does that say about us as individuals, if we are trusting in such things. Do you remember

the song, 'You'll never get to heaven?' You certainly can't get to heaven in Grandad's car or as a Maserati. If we focus on what the world sees as valuable while ignoring the spiritual and eternal side of life, as James is pointing out we've got our priorities wrong.

James encourages us to not only be careful what we put our faith and hopes in, but also that we should treat others well. Pay your staff fairly, don't cheat or misuse those who work for you, cut corners or take advantage. Not sharing tips fairly is the short end of the wedge, while at the other is what's now called modern slavery. It's not new or modern, why else would James be talking about it. Treating ourselves to a luxurious holiday while not paying a living wage to our workers is an appalling misuse of our fellow human beings. One thing is for sure – God knows.

Not paying fair wages can also lead to death. Innocent people can get in way over their head in debt and could starve. Others may lose hope and only see one way out.

While James is urging us to be fair to all, he is also reminds us to be patient and wait upon the Lord. Impatience can lead to blaming and being being unfair to others. James points to Job in his only reference in the New Testament. He uses Job as an example of how we should persevere and wait patiently on God. In a nutshell James is urging us to be fair, patient, persevere under pressure, to be straightforward and honest. Above all we are to rely on God.

If we are in trouble	Pray
If all is going well	Praise

James writes, 'If you are sick, call the elders to pray and lay on hands on you, confess your sins and seek God's forgiveness and healing.' As wonderful as the NHS is, there are times when we need forgiveness and God's healing more than a prescription. In time as more and more of us are protected by the double and triple vaccination, we will be able to begin offering opportunities for prayer after the service and holding healing services again. If you need prayer, I know that Ian, Kevin and many others would be only too willing to pray with you so please mention as you leave Church or get in touch by telephone.

Modern life has many more temptations and pitfalls than life in 1st Century Israel. The principals haven't changed over the intervening years. We should deal fairly and honestly with our fellow human beings. Things rust, break and quite frankly get in the way of our relationship with God. Surely we should be concentrating on our eternal lives rather than trying to impress with never wearing the same outfit twice or impressing with designer labels. We've all seen documentaries depicting how winning the pools or the lottery doesn't magically turn us into people without any problems – they're just different ones. Friends and family we get along with and being content matters more than having the latest car on our driveway, particularly if all you do at night is worry about how you're going to pay for it.

There are no pockets in shrouds, no fire proof safes in coffins – you can't take it with you. Paying your debts, treating people fairly, using the world's precious resources wisely and looking to God for the rest – isn't that what James has been saying to us all.

So do we ignore James' advice, saying he's old fashioned, out of date, doesn't understand me and my needs? No, I for one want to learn from his words, to put them into practice. to aim for the eternal not the temporary fix, to aim for what lasts – and lasts forever - lasts for all eternity.

Amen

SONG - THERE IS STRENGTH WITHIN THE SORROW

There is strength within the sorrow,
There is beauty in our tears;
You meet us in our mourning
With a love that casts out fear.

You are working in our waiting,
Sanctifying us;
When beyond our understanding,
You're teaching us to trust.

*Your plans are still to prosper,
You've not forgotten us;
You're with us in the fire and the flood.
Faithful forever,
Perfect in love,
You are sovereign over us.*

You are wisdom unimagined;
Who could understand Your ways,
Reigning high above the heavens,
Reaching down in endless grace?
You're the lifter of the lowly,
Compassionate and kind;
You surround and You uphold me,
And Your promises are my delight.

Chorus

Even what the enemy means for evil,
You turn it for our good;
You turn it for our good and for Your glory.
Even in the valley You are faithful;
You're working for our good,
You're working for our good and for Your glory.

(Repeat)

Chorus

*Faithful forever,
Perfect in love,
You are sovereign over us.*

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS (Sue Scholes)

Let's pray together.

Father your word tells us to pray without ceasing though not just in this formal setting but in our hearts telling you what weighs us down when your Holy Spirit takes our groans as prayers. And you answer prayers in ways we don't foresee which shows your greatness. Your love for us knows no bounds and neither does the power of prayer through which you can do anything. In our own homes we pray for family and friends, but everyone is someone's family or friend so we bring you anyone, anywhere who is ill, in pain, in hospital; who is lonely, anxious, or who suffer fear of any kind. We are reminded of those caught up in conflict, people whose lives are affected by natural disasters, like the volcano, and, as you say, the poor and hungry are always with us. Food Banks and aid agencies and the caring professions are all working to ease these ordeals so we ask that you bless the workers and their efforts. We pray for our Royal Family, for all governments that they make decisions right for their people and the future of this world, following your will for us all. We lift up all who grieve, particularly families affected by knife attacks which seem frighteningly frequent nowadays. May people with violence in mind find a change of heart and meet with you. Thank you that your word is reaching more and more people, opening their hearts to you, for you are all that we need to make good things.

So we pray all these things and many more in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
In one Spirit we were all baptised
into one body.
Let us then pursue
all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Please share the peace with anyone who is with you and phone someone after the service to share God's peace with them.

SONG- My worth is not in what I own,

My worth is not in what I own,
Not in the strength of flesh and bone,
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name,
In win or lose in pride or shame,
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

*I rejoice in my Redeemer,
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no other,
My soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

As summer flowers we fade and die,
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by,
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might,
Or human wisdom's fleeting light,
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross.

Chorus

Two wonders here that I confess:
My worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed my ransom paid at the cross.

Chorus

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ,
your Son our Lord.
For he is your living word;
through him you have created all things
from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman
and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead and exalted him
to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

We break this bread,
To share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

DISTRIBUTION

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.
Amen.
The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Do share bread and wine (or fruit juice) with anyone who is with you while you listen to our next song.

COMMUNION SONG - THIS IS MY BODY

This is my body, broken for you,
Bringing you wholeness, making you free,
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,
Bringing forgiveness, making you free,
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.

Back to my Father, soon I shall go.
Do not forget me; then you will see
I am still with you, and you will know
You're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!
You are the branches; I am the tree,
If you are faithful, others will know
you are alive in me.

Love one another: I have loved you,
And I have shown you how to be free;
Serve one another, and when you do,
Do it in love for me.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER

**Almighty God,
We thank you for feeding us with the body and blood
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

SONG - IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
'Til on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns, or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen