

St Columba & the Northern Saints
HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 8th May 2022

SONG **S82** 362 *Lord the light of Your love*

Lord, the light of your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

(chorus)

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

(chorus)

WELCOME

Welcome to our service for the fourth Sunday of Easter when we will be welcoming the family of Agnes Dunn to our service in church and dedicating a banner made in her memory. We will hear some stories from Spring Harvest and also celebrate Holy Communion, so do make sure you have some bread and wine or fruit juice available.

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SONG **S83** 2249 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.

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

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!'

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

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

STORIES FROM SPRING HARVEST - Anne & Paul Bailey

Spring Harvest 2022. I want to say thank you to Miriam for organising everything. We were lucky enough to be able to get lifts there and back as I don't drive on motorways, so thank you to Brad & Donna and David & Elaine for getting us there and back safely. Thank you too for Ian looking after us all. I tried my best to help Ian out with queueing which was quite funny at times. On the Monday evening we went to listen to Nexus ICA, a Christian band, that was really nice and they were encouraging everyone to get up and dance. We went swimming twice while we were there and we saw Philippa Hanna on one of the evenings. We both felt very uplifted with being away for the week. We enjoyed the services and Bible readings in Studio 36 and we played Crazy Golf, David (Bavin) was the winner. We're looking forward to going to Skegness next year.

SONG **S84** 493 Seek Ye first the kingdom **(T+10)**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you,
Hallelu, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God,
Hallelu, hallelujah!
(chorus)

Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you,
Hallelu, hallelujah!
(chorus)

COLLECT for Easter 4

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
AMEN

BIBLE READING Acts 9:36-43

³⁶ In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. ³⁷ About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. ³⁸ Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!'

³⁹ Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

⁴⁰ Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. ⁴² This became known all

over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SERMON by David Bavin

Good morning.

It's a while since I have read this morning's passage and when I re-read it before working on this sermon my immediate reaction was wow. This is Peter. The last time I came across Peter was as part of Christ's passion and to be honest he didn't exactly cover himself in glory. He was sat by the fire in the courtyard of the high priest's house.

While there he asked three times if he was a follower of Christ. Each time he was asked he denied it, increasingly vehemently at each question. Then the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. He then went, with the other disciples into hiding. Now here he is, he has left Jerusalem and is in Lydda preaching in the name of Christ and doing miracles. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. But then people change don't they.

Consider for a moment this guy. Do you recognise him? Some of you will have, but for those who have not I will give you a clue He is a "Mild mannered" reporter for the Daily Planet and his name is Clark Kent. But this man can change and he becomes Superman. As Superman he has tremendous strength, he can leap tall buildings with a single bound and run faster than a speeding bullet. Over the years he has even developed the ability to fly.

Actually, Clark Kent is not a good example of a person changing as he does not change. Clark Kent is a mask that Superman wears to hide his true identity.

So, let's consider someone else. Do you recognise him? He is or at least was, the actor Bill Bixby. Bill Bixby's probably best known for playing Dr. David Banner. And I do mean David Banner because the character in its source material and in every other incarnation of the story is called Bruce Banner.

If you do not know who Bruce Banner is, let me give you a piece of advice, "Don't make him angry. You wouldn't like him when he's angry."
He becomes the Incredible Hulk. The first person to ever have "Hulkovirus".

Although I was aware of the Incredible Hulk before I really got to know something about him from the 1977 TV series and this is the incarnation that I am going to use. Though as we have already seen the TV series took some liberties with the source material, they even wanted to change the colour of the hulk from green to red, though this was one change to many.

The Incredible Hulk himself is partially based upon "The strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson. And like Dr Jekyll, David Banner was not happy with the person he transformed into. In the case of the hulk, he became a primitive wild being who reacted emotionally rather than intellectually. Dr Banner consequently searched for ways to be rid of the creature. He failed. After four seasons the series was cancelled, but came back as three TV movies. The final TV movie ended with the death of the central character. There were plans for a fourth TV movie that showed he survived, but this failed to become a reality due to the deteriorating health of Bill Bixby. So, the story ended with the death of the main character. A person who did change but did not like what he became and tried to change back to what he was before.

Alright David you have identified two people who changed and then dismissed them but they were both fictional characters. I would say purposely to identify types. The person who

appears to change but uses the change to mask part of his character, or a person who changes but does not like the change and tries to revert to what he had or was before.

Let's look at someone else and compare the before and after. Do you recognise this person? He became this person. They look both the same you say? That's because this is a real person and the change was not physical, this was intellectual, and more importantly spiritual. You might think it is Saul who became Paul who we talked about last week but it is not. This person before and after this change was Peter. Simon Peter the fisherman, who became Peter the disciple, who became Peter the leader of the new church. The fisherman who became the person who brought Tabitha (or in Greek Dorcas) back to life when she died.

The question you might now be asking is how? How did Peter the hiding apostle become this powerful prominent spokesman for God. How did this simple fisherman who had a habit of doing before thinking become able to bring someone back from the dead? The answer to both questions is the power of the Holy Spirit. On xx we will be looking specifically at the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room and see those changes. Today I just want to concentrate on the change in Peter. Peter as a follower of Jesus was brave and impulsive, jumping in first to react. Sometimes leaping in with both feet first, or putting his foot straight into his mouth. Now here he is Joppa which is now known as Jaffa the port on the outskirts of Tel Aviv. He is taken to the home of a dead woman Tabitha (or Dorcas to use her Greek name), he dismissed the mourners and then he got down on his knees and prayed. Not one of the actions you would have tagged the old version of Peter with.

Having prayed he turned toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.

That sort of thing does not happen today you might say. I can tell you personally it does sometimes. When my Elaine was quite young, one of her brothers had problems with his eyes. She decided on one occasion to take a quick swig of his eye medicine. Now while a couple of drops in his eyes was good for him a swig in her intestine was not. In fact it was fatal. Her parents rushed her to hospital where they were told that she would probably not make it through the night. Her parents insisted that something must be done. One of the nurses there prayed over her. This same nurse was heard the next day giving praises to the Lord, when Elaine not only survived the night but showed every sign of making a full recovery. It was not a one off, When I was a teenager, my mum was suddenly taken very ill. Long story short she was rushed to hospital where they failed to find out what was wrong with her and what was causing the severe stomach pains. As her condition deteriorated, 40 -60 against and dropping, they decided to do an emergency exploratory operation. They discovered that a strangulation from a previous operation had wrapped itself around her bowel and caused it to go gangrene. While they operated a teenage boy prayed like he had never prayed before. Over 50 years later my mum is still with us. The prayers of a nurse or a teenager that made real changes, through the power of the Holy Spirit. One off changes but real changes. Some of you have heard me talk before about Marilyn. A young divorced married woman with two children who use to go to the same church as I did.

Actually she didn't go to the church, she was befriended by our curate and his wife and would spend time with them. I was a member of a fellowship that met at Church House and we would tend to sit round the dining table. Marilyn use to sit behind the circle so that she could listen in but was far too shy to "want to be involved" with the group. Gradually she started to join in and to come to church. After a mission we had at church some of us decided to form a street theatre group to do sketches in church and on the street. Marilyn's faith had grown and she felt led to join the group, but strictly on the understanding that she did not have to act, if a sketch required a narrator who could read a part she was happy to do that, and so she did. As we continued occasionally, she might fill in for an actor at a rehearsal. Over time as her faith grew, she went from this stance to taking leading roles in

pantomimes. The Spirit continued working in her and changing her. In July 1995 Marilyn became ordained. She went on to lead a team ministry in Kent. She has retired now but still officiates, as she told Bradley Walsh when she appeared on a national TV show that she loved being a retired minister because it gave her the chance to continue to do the serving she loved without the responsibility or paperwork. The holy Spirit continuing to work and change Marilyn.

Just so you don't think that this only happens in the past. Let me assure you it is still happening. One of the good things about being a reader is that people talk to me and occasionally they tell me stuff about what the Lord has done for or to them. Let me assure you the Lord is doing wonderful things amongst this very congregation. I am not going to pick on anyone today.

Some of you have shared your stories with the church and I hope that some of you will feel freed enough to share at some stage in the future. Some of you are aware of the changes the Lord has made, is making to you. Some of you possibly are not as aware "It's just me." It was just a nurse, a school boy, a single mother. It is you with the Holy Spirit working through you.

This is not a Cinderella type change, with a happy ever after conclusion, this is a real change, there will still be problems and difficulties ahead but because the Lord is with you these will not be insurmountable.

If you let him the Holy Spirit will come into your life and will change you, has changed you for the better. So, I pray that the Lord will come upon you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

SONG **S85** 950 O Father of the fatherless

O, Father of the fatherless,
In whom all families are blessed,
I love the way You father me.
You gave me life, forgave the past,
Now in Your arms I'm safe at last,
I love the way You father me.

*Father me
Forever You'll father me,
and in Your embrace
I'll be forever secure...
I love the way You father me.
I love the way You father me.*

When bruised and broken I draw near
You hold me close and dry my tears,
I love the way You father me.

At last my fearful heart is still,
Surrendered to Your perfect will,
I love the way You father me.

(chorus)

If in my foolishness I stray,
Returning empty and ashamed,
I love the way You father me.
Exchanging for my wretchedness
Your radiant robes of righteousness,
I love the way You father me.

(chorus)

And when I look into Your eyes
From deep within my spirit cries,
I love the way You father me.
Before such love I stand amazed
And ever will through endless days,
I love the way You father me.

(chorus)

DEDICATION OF BANNER IN MEMORY OF AGNES DUNN

“The priests stood before the people,
and their voice was heard when their prayer reached God’s dwelling place in heaven.”
2 Chronicles 30.27

On behalf of St Columba’s I gratefully accept this banner
and in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ I dedicate it to the glory of God,
and in memory of his servant Agnes.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

As we think of our sister Agnes let us remember her in prayer:

We thank you Lord for all that was pure and true, honest and good,
in the life of Agnes;
for the example she has left of prayer,
of faith, hope and service,
and of love for you and your church.
We give thanks too for the generosity of Agnes’ family in providing this banner,
and for the assurance we have, through Christ,
that she has entered into glory through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And as we remember Agnes’ prayers let us pray that we may pray like her:

Almighty God, you are more ready to hear than we are to pray,
and more ready to give than we either desire or deserve.
As we look on this banner, and remember the prayers of Agnes in this church,
may we be inspired to pour out our hearts in prayer,
and may we have the same assurance Agnes had
that you never fail to hear and to answer the prayers of your faithful people.
Give us the grace of prayer
and make us ready both to desire and to do your will,
that our prayers may not end on our lips, but go forth with power
to accomplish your purpose in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

SONG S86 593 What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit!
O what needless pain we bear!
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there

EUCCHARISTIC 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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father;
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
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 OF 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.**

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG **S88** 514 Such love

Such love, pure as the whitest snow;
Such love, weeps for the shame I know;
Such love, paying the debt I owe;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness;
Such love, filling my emptiness;
Such love, showing me holiness;
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity;
Such love, streaming through history;
Such love, fountain of life to me;
O Jesus, such love.

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYERS

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

**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 **S89** 425 O Lord my God

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;
(chorus)

And when I think that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die - I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
(chorus)

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home - what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
(chorus)

BLESSING

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
AMEN.

DISMISSAL

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!