



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Kelso

www.standrewskelso.co.uk

Charity Number SC006302



Rector: The Rev'd Canon Bob King
01573 224163
rectorofkelso@gmail.com

Associate Priest: The Rev'd Grace Redpath
01573 450752
grace.redpath@btconnect.com

“ Open For You”

Sunday October 3rd: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

HARVEST 2021

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: Come, ye thankful people, come

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home!

All is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest-home!

We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home,
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

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.

The Collects for Today

God of the heavens and the earth, you call us to share in the care of your creation and to bring food and fruitfulness from field and farm. Hear our prayer for all who make their living on the land and make us grateful for the work of their hands and for the generosity of your provision. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen

Lord our God, you renew the face of the earth and bring newness to our world. Restore our waters, refresh the air, revive the land, breathe new life into all your creation, and begin with us. Amen

Intercessions

We pray for those whose lives are caught up with your creation,
and who work with you in tending and nurturing it;
those who even now suffer as a result of the crisis in our countryside;
those afraid for their future, those struggling to survive;
all whose livelihood and existence is under threat.
May they know your presence and be conscious of the help that you bring.
Through both may they find hope for their future.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for the hungry and the homeless, the broken and bereaved.
For all for whom this day brings sadness and little joy.
For the lonely and the helpless, for those whose hope has been shattered,
and their faith destroyed.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

For the struggling and the oppressed.
for those without power to negotiate or bargain;
for all whose work goes unrewarded, whose produce is undervalued.
For all who feel unwanted believing their skills are no longer needed.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all who struggle to change the system, striving for justice and fair trade,
trying to overcome political blindness and public insensitivity.
For all who influence our thinking, our buying and consuming;
for all who formulate policy and manage the market;
for fairness and compassion in all walks of life.
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For responsible stewardship in our using of your world;
for sustainable consumption as well as production;
for care for creation and compassion for each other.

Lord, may your Kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Amen

We pray for those whose Anniversaries of Death fall at this time, including Harry Crow, Frank Frost, Jemima Hastie, Elizabeth Carr, Emily Stewart, Agnes Salmon, Dean Warwick, Donald Newington, Susan Wyhowska, Mary Anderson, Joyce Fitzgerald, Neil Thomson, and all who mourn them.

May the souls of the faithful, by the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Readings

Genesis 1:1, 24-31 The Message

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.

God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind: cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."

And there it was: wild animals of every kind, cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them:

"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

Then God said, "I've given you every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth and every kind of fruit-bearing tree, given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds, everything that moves and breathes, I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."

And there it was.

God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning.

Day Six.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew ch 6 v 25-33 (New RSV)

Glory to Christ our Saviour

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

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

Address: The Rev'd Canon Bob King

Last week Grace started and finished with this quote

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" from Mary Oliver's poem The Summer Day.

Her question was

'Tell me, what is it YOU plan to do with YOUR one wild and precious life?'

Well, have you decided?

Did it relate to harvest and creation?

I am amazed by the story of creation as recorded or reported in Genesis.

Thousands of words have been written and countless hours of debate have taken place over the centuries as scholars have wrestled with the question "How did it all evolve?"

You will not be surprised to hear that I am not going to enter my tuppence worth into the discussion here. Life is too short and precious in my opinion.

And, I have not got a clue as to what the answer is.

Maybe a mixture of God and science.

Let's leave it there for now but feel free to have your own creation debate at home after this service.

What I am going to say is:

What an amazing place planet earth is.

Something so beautiful, complex, integrated, cruel, kind, diverse, unique and varied is, in my opinion, way beyond human comprehension and is a sign of a divine being, an almighty and all-loving God at work.

Its the variety of stuff in the world that gets me.

Cattle, reptiles, bugs, plants, creeping things, fish, trees, grasses, animals, rodents, gas, air, coal, sea, sky, ice, sun, water, Kelso, and, of course, us humans.

As it says in the passage from Genesis

"God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature.

He created them male and female.

God blessed them:

"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.""

Be responsible God said:

I must be honest I do wonder how responsible we are being.

I have watched a few of the David Attenborough programmes recently and been shocked by some of the sights shown of the destruction of rain forests, ice caps and natural resources.

I find the concept of tearing apart the world's resources foreign, disturbing and difficult to understand.

The people I know and have experience of, who work on the land or with livestock, are people who care passionately about creation.

They work with the land, always trying to achieve the best yields and quality. And that is only achievable by careful and considerate husbandry and land management.

Yes, I know I am only seeing a small part of it but I have been around long enough and lived in rural areas for so many years that I do know a bit about what I am describing.

However, I have to be realistic. Unlike what it says at the beginning of the Gospel I do worry.

I know that God loves us, knows us and has great plans for us but when God created us we were given free will.

How we use our free will is the challenge.

I remember my Grandad.

Nanny and Grandad lived in a big house with a huge garden in rural Buckinghamshire.

Every morning after breakfast Grandad would disappear into his large vegetable garden with a trug and return to the kitchen with a selection of vegetables that my Nanny would clean and prepare for lunch.

They ate what was in season.

Unlike their grandson who wants strawberries on Christmas Day and lamb 365 days of the year.

The difference between them and me is that they lived with what the land gave them in season, whereas I, like so many others expect to have what I want when I want it. I often give little thought to the cost in food miles etc of what I am demanding.

My Grandad would be spinning in his grave at the thought of supermarkets stacked with every type of fruit and vegetable 365 days of the year.

But it is lovely, isn't it.

I do love being able to watch Jamie Oliver grating sweetcorn into coleslaw and knowing that I can pop up to Sainsbury's and get a couple of cobs.

I guess that whole season of harvest is about our attitude.

Our attitude to paying a fair price for the good produce we want.

I'm sad to see on TV that we are back in price wars on food again.

Who pays for the reductions? – Farmers and producers, of course. There is no such thing as a free lunch is there?

Someone has to pay the price.

God said he was making humankind responsible for creation. The fish in the sea, birds of the air, crops in the fields, animals on the land.

Creation has its own procedures and processes.

Sometimes we wince and look away when David Attenborough shows the Kill as a predator hunts down another animal to feed itself and its family.

Sadly, it's an essential part of the Eco System; the food chain that ensures the survival of species.

Attenborough helps us to acknowledge and understand the way that nature works so that maybe we can work better with it.

Harvest time is a good time to build on our learning. Learning how the way we choose to live impacts creation.

We all have our views and our likes and our dislikes.

I guess we sometimes form our views without really knowing the ins and outs. The reality of certain situations and the way things are achieved or happen.

A couple of years ago we invited the Curates from Edinburgh Diocese to come to Kelso for a day.

Grace and I talked to them in the morning about how we operate here in St Andrew's on a day-to-day basis and answered many questions about what it was like to be ministers in a more rural setting. Something the majority of them had never experienced.

We said, of course, 'be there for all your people, love them unconditionally and remind everyone that they are made in the image of God.'

After a cracking Gill Orde lunch in the Rectory we took them up to Keith and Grace's farm.

Now then, I think it is fair to say that the group had a diverse range of views about farming, food production, meat production and some of the methods used.

There is no doubt they all came with their prejudices.

As they were shown around the farm, met the livestock, and saw what was actually involved, you could see scales falling from their eyes. Jaws dropping and bits of jigsaws falling into place.

Maybe, for the first time, they saw the practicalities of farming. The good, the bad and the ugly.

The pros and the cons. The love and passion, and the difficulties of finding a balance.

One said, 'I never knew it was like this.'

This was a sign of harvest.

A sign of new growth

A new beginning, where responsibility was taken and they looked into the eye of the storm to see what was really happening.

I do not pretend for a moment that everything is hunky dory.

I do believe we need to take greater responsibility for all aspects of our planet.

We are doing it here in St Andrew's as we work to be an Eco Congregation

I think we should worry about our lives and what we eat and drink, as we try to ensure that we do live more in harmony with the world around us.

That everyone gets a fair share of all of our resources and that we treat everyone and everything with respect and equality.

When God gave us responsibility for Creation it was in the knowledge that we can do it and God knows that if we can exercise our free will properly we can find an unimaginable world filled with joy and natural beauty, just as it was created.

Oh, a question

Is it really fair that someone else is paid less so that you can get it cheaper?

Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely giv'n,
graces human and divine,
flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:

For thy Church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
off'ring up on ev'ry shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

The service continues with Eucharistic Prayer 1.

Celebrated for us by The Rev'd Canon Bob King Bob

Please join in the Communion anyway you would like to.

Hymn: We plough the fields, and scatter

**We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.**

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

**He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
he fills the earth with beauty,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.**

**We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good:
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.**

**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**