

Sunday service 4th July 2021 Haddington West with Garvald and Morham.

Call to Worship



We come to listen to the word of the Lord! Assist us to accept God's word and his direction in our lives. Affirm the virtue of God's love for us. May our words and our activities be full of love. Let us join together in a time of worship and open our eyes, hearts and our spirits to fill our inner self with your fulfilling love for each other. Amen

Hymn MP. 604 Soldiers of Christ arise.

Prayer and Lord's prayer Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden, we rejoice to be as one in your great human family on earth and in heaven. Loving God, you have been at work in this world, from the first day of Creation. So many people throughout the past centuries have been formed in your image. The saints who have gone before us helping to change our history by often doing what some would say impossible traveling in faith with you by their sides. You are an awesome God! We confess, Lord, to keeping the saints contained in boxes which cannot let the light be seen therefore not reaching out but being shut away that even we forget that the light of the Lord's works should never be hidden but Lord you nudge our consciences to open up ourselves to tell of the good works of our Lord and redeemer. Thank You for the gift of your son that through him our sins were forgiven and we are encouraged to come and give him the praise and glory he so richly deserves. Because of Him, our hands are never empty. And because of Him we can go out to tell the good news of Jesus and all the saints who came after so that we might know the proper paths to walk and to truly know that You walk with us always. Let us come together and pray the Lord's Prayer. Our Father.

MP. 882 Lord of all hopefulness.

Readings 1&2 2nd Samuel 5 verses 1-5 & 9, 10. New Testament reading Mark 6; 1
- 14

Sermon

Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and redeemer. Amen.

I remember when I decided to go and do the course to become a Reader that some of the people that I knew didn't believe I would go through with it. It took me a good number of years to complete it but as you can imagine I was delighted when I did. Some people that I knew from my younger years are very surprised, when they see me in the pulpit, or conducting a funeral. They knew I went to church but as a member not someone who could lead in worship. They had known me for years and years. The people of Nazareth had known Jesus. But they certainly were not kind in any way to him. All they could see in Jesus was the son of a carpenter just someone they had known in their younger days. They definitely were not willing to see him as the Son of God. And yet, Jesus, had taught, healed, prophesied, and loved, all who came to him and redeemed them. He also sent the disciples to go and do the same. And there are still people going out today to do likewise.

From the early years the people of Israel knew who their leaders would be. (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob). Then the unfortunate time when they had the Pharaohs as their leaders, until the exodus and their time in the wilderness with Moses who had been chosen and appointed by God. Much later Joshua was next in line. There were many different leaders who were not good. And the people were fed up so fed up that they called for a king. Samuel was not keen but the people wanted stability and believed a royal line would be the way to go. Saul became the first king but unfortunately he and his son were killed in a battle against the Philistines, leaving the people in quite a predicament. A split occurred amongst the tribes and Judah went their own way and chose David to be their king. He ruled for seven and a half years but the other factions decided to come in and there was civil war which eventually led the people to finally accept David as their King. They came saying they were kin, and flesh and blood and saying the Lord had chosen David to be their king. They were doing their best to be acceptable within the tribe having lost all their battles previously. They knew that it was pointless to fight against God's plans as his purpose for us all **will** be carried out. **God's will be done.** They did not recognise who was amongst them and just how great he had become. But of course they did know him but not in the way they should have done. They just remembered him as the son of Mary and Joseph someone who came from very humble beginnings. Maybe this is the reason why "prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." Jesus as far as they were concerned was just the same as all his brothers and sisters, nothing changed from when he was a boy growing up amongst them.

There are many stories that refer to this throughout the bible, people who have met with Jesus but not recognising him. The "builders" in the psalm did not recognize him (Psalm 118:22-23; Luke 20:17). And Jesus said to the woman at the well, "If you knew ... who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). But she didn't know with whom she was dealing. Mark tells us

that Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith of the townspeople. And especially as Jesus was the one they had been told would come to be the saviour of the world. Yet because they didn't recognise who was in their midst they restricted what He would have done for them just because of a lack of faith. But they could only limit in their own locality and Jesus went away and gave power and the purpose to his disciples to further the work of the kingdom far and wide. They also left anyone out who had no time for them.

David had been chosen by God and he became greater and greater. How could that be? It is very simple really it is all down to a three letter word "FOR" "The Lord, the God of hosts, was with him." Now we are in the holiday season and we spend a lot of time wondering what to take with us. I am very guilty of taking far too much. I know someone in the church who will verify this as he was trying to lift my case into the car he was amazed at the weight. But I just like to make sure I have enough to get me to the end of the week or for however long I am away for. Yet here was Jesus instructing the disciples to "Take nothing with you except a staff and sandals for your feet" and if they were not welcomed in that town to leave and shake the dust of their feet, as a testimony against them". The disciples were very unsure of themselves being able to heal people the way Jesus did, but they eventually believed that they had been given the way, FOR "The Lord, the God of hosts, was with them". They were given the task to go out and tell people that they would have to believe and have faith in God and in his son Jesus Christ who had come to be their saviour. I am sure we all really like to be ready and equipped for the journey of life yet there are times when things go wrong that it makes our lives difficult and we cannot see the way ahead. We worry often but when we take the time to stop and pray giving the worry to God then the thing that has knocked us down can be put into perspective. If we have the self-assurance that God is walking with us taking us to the place we should be, and that God will supply all that we need for the journey. And that friends will walk the walk with us. With the grace given by God we will have sufficient to last through the journey we are on. Jesus wants us to go out into the world and spread the good news of God's love for all and that his grace is for all people whoever come, to have and share the faith we have been gifted. We will not be disheartened FOR the Lord our God will be walking alongside us all the way. Trust always in the Lord. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Let us come together in our prayers of intercession. Heavenly Father we come to you and ask for prayers for all ministers who preach and not be rejected as Jesus was in Nazareth. We pray for the world we live in today we ask that the violence and hatred of others and terrorism be put aside so the peace, love and union be brought about. We pray today for peacemakers throughout the world, may they bring hope out of despair, peace out of conflict and prosperity out of poverty. Father God we pray for our families and friends and especially for young people that they may grow up knowing love and hope, valuing life and respecting others. We pray for those who have to left school and moving on to whatever stage they might be at we pray that the children who have had exams attain the results they are hoping for. Father we ask that the little ones now on holiday be kept safe from harm and will enjoy their time at home. We pray for John, Elizabeth, and the family may they have a lovely restful holiday together and come back fully refreshed.

Loving Lord, we come together in prayer for all who are ill either at home or in hospital or care homes, tend to them in your loving arms may they know you are with them. We further pray for any who have had bereavement in their families uphold them and help us to be with them in their time of need. Let us in a moment of silence name them in our hearts.

Faithful God we pray for ourselves as we go into another week. May we follow the paths you have carved out for us in a way that is pleasing to you in the knowledge that you will be with us on our daily walk. We ask you Lord to accept these prayers in the name of your son Jesus Christ amen

MP. 178 Go forth and tell.

Benediction

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen