

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

Following Jesus and Holy Communion

Service

30th January 2022



A brief reflection

Holy Communion

Song: Behold the Lamb

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aecG01Ky9wE>



Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus says, 'For I'm building a people of power, and I'm making a people of praise, that will move thro' this land by My Spirit, and will glorify My precious Name'

**All: Build Your church Lord, make us strong
Lord, join our hearts Lord, through Your Son.
Make us one Lord, in Your body, in the
kingdom of Your Son**

CCLI Song # 33801, Dave Richards© 1977 Thankyou Music

Song/Live Service: Will you come and follow me?

1. Will you come and follow Me
If I but call your name
Will you go where you don't know
And never be the same
Will you let My love be shown
Will you let My name be known
Will you let My life be grown
In you and you in Me
2. Will you leave yourself behind
If I but call your name
Will you care for cruel and kind
And never be the same
Will you risk the hostile stare
Should your life attract or scare
Will you let Me answer prayer
In you and you in Me
3. Will you love the you you hide
If I but call your name
Will you quell the fear inside
And never be the same
Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around
Though My sight and touch and sound
In you and you in Me
4. Lord Your summons echoes true
When You but call my name
Let me turn and follow You
And never be the same
In Your company I'll go
Where Your love and footsteps show
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In You and You in me

CCLI Song # 4668756, Graham Maule | John L. Bell, © Words:
1987 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, Scotland, G2 3DH

Bible Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Invitation and prayer

Leader: Come, all you who are loved by God, Come, and be fed with the food that He gives freely; Come, and quench your thirst from the Waters of Life. Come, and let your spirits be filled again with the goodness of your Creator. Lord God, Giver of all good things,

**All: We hear Your invitation; we see Your gifts of life and grace. We have come, we have tasted and we know...
God, You are good. Amen.**

Leader: For the Lord our God has gathered us here and Jesus the Christ is our Host. Come, you who are blessed. Come, you who are broken. Come to the table of the Lord.

Rev 3:20 says, 'Listen, I am standing at the door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me. This meal is not my idea or that of the church. It was initiated by Jesus Christ Himself. It is for all who love Jesus or for all who want to love Him more. So, come if you have much or if you have little. Come, if your faith is strong or if, especially during this time, you feel your faith is weak.

Come, if you have been here often, or if you have not been here for a long time. Come, if you have tried to follow Jesus, and come if you feel you have failed. Come, not because it is your minister or friend that invites you to this table, but because Jesus Himself invites you. It is His will that those who seek Him should find Him here.

All: Lord God, we come to this, the Lord's table, bringing ourselves, families and friends communities to you. We come asking for your forgiveness where we have failed you, our families and friends. We come asking for your help and strength to serve you, your people and creation well, with and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray together with our eyes open, and when I raise my hand, kindly join me to say: **'these we lay down'**.

Let's practice [gesture], 'these we lay down'.

Leader: Before we take the body of the Lord, before we share his life in bread and wine, we recognize those things we carry within us for which we are sorry [gesture] **'these we lay down'**.

Leader: The words of hope we often failed to give, the prayers of kindness buried in our pride, the signs of care we argued out of sight [gesture] **'these we lay down'**.

Leader: Our narrowness of vision and of mind, our need for other folk to serve our will, and every word and silence meant to hurt [gesture] **'these we lay down'**

Leader: Of those around in whom we meet our Lord, we ask their pardon and we grant them ours; every contradiction to Christ's peace [gesture] **'these we lay down'**

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast, we empty now our hearts and stretch our hands, and ask you to meet us here in bread and wine which you lay down, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Jesus said, 'Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' (John 6:47-51)

All: We are the people of God. We are the body of Christ. We are scattered, and the body of Christ is broken, but as we gather, the body of Christ is re-membered.

Leader: A short Christian Creed (together)

**All: We believe in God, the Creator!
Maker of everything,
Author of the Universe,
And Mystery behind every matter.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ!
God from God, Light from Light,
true God and true human,
One with the Creator.**

**He is the Word made flesh and the Saviour
of all creation!**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit!
Breath of God moving among us,
One with the Creator and one with Christ,
He is our Guide and the Mentor of all creation!**

Leader: Together we gather in obedience to Jesus' command, to remember, and to share together in breaking bread and drinking wine, in remembrance of the death of Christ. Each piece of bread that we eat was once scattered across the fields, and the grain that God gave to grow has become for us the bread of life. Each sip of wine that we drink was once many vines, and the grapes that God gave to grow have become for us the new wine of God's kingdom.

In our communion with one another, we are fed with the bread of heaven that sustains us, and we drink the wine of gladness that brings us joy. The people of Israel were sustained by God through their years of wilderness wandering: 'The Israelites ate manna for forty years, until they came to a habitable land; they ate manna, until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.' (Exodus 16.35) '[God] rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.' (Psalm 78.24). And we too are God's people, sustained by God through the wilderness of this world.

Jesus said to His disciples: 'Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Then Jesus said to them, "very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to Him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6.31-35)

On the night of His arrest, Jesus took bread, and after He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body. It

is for you'. Do this to remember me.' In the same way, after the supper He took the cup and said, 'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me'. So now, following Jesus' example and command, we take this bread and this wine, the ordinary things of the world which Christ will make special.

We eat and we drink together and, as Stuart Townend reminds us in his beautiful communion song, 'we share in the bread of life and drink of His sacrifice – as a sign of our bonds of peace, around the table of the King'.

Let us share in bread together.

Jesus said, 'This is my body broken for you'.

I now invite you where you are to break, share or eat bread (or what ever you've got to hand. Eat recognising that Jesus, the Saviour of the world died for you. His body was broken so that you might know freedom, healing and peace in your life.

Let us share in wine together

After supper Jesus took the cup 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood', He said. *We remember that Jesus will come again. And so, as we drink together now, where you are – where I am, we remember that Jesus is alive and the hope that we have is that He will come again. Our hearts cry is Maranatha! Come Lord, back to this needy world. And so, together, we drink.*

Prayer after communion and prayers for others

We give thanks, Loving God, that You have refreshed us at Your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for you and one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. From where You are to where You need us, Jesus, now lead on. From the security of what we know to the adventure You will reveal to us. Jesus, now lead on. To refashion the fabric of this world until it resembles the shape of Your Kingdom, Jesus, now lead on. From the known to the unknown, from the normal to the new normal – Jesus, now lead on.

Sharing peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

Let share peace or ask God to bless our family and friends with His peace.



Closing Song: All Hail the power of Jesus' name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdsvGbU7nV0>

Final blessings

Leader: Lord Jesus, Into this sacred place

All: we follow you.

Leader: Into the questions of faith and journeys of belief

All: we follow you.

Leader: Into the traditions of the past and unknown future

All: we follow you.

Leader: Into the heart of community and purpose of church

All: we follow you.

Leader: Into worship, silence and reflection

All: we follow you.

After the service

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crgIRDh6laA>

