

**St. Margaret's Community Church of  
Scotland Dunfermline**

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## **14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Newsletter**

Imagine the scene, when Jesus is being tried before Pilate and how it must have felt when the crowd shouted:

“We have no King but Caesar!”

How that must have seared into his soul. Those people who regularly sung, “The Lord is King, let the earth tremble” and who knew the well known and often repeated words of the prophet Isaiah, “I am the Lord, there is no other.”

How is it that he dealt with such deep hatred and bitterness towards himself and managed to remain silent?

How is that possible? Why does he not cry out either in anger or self-justification? Why remain silent? Why indeed not use those obvious powers he had to deal a blow to those people who ridiculed him? There at the seat of Gentile power they not only denied Jesus, they denied their own tradition and religion. The whole thing is a deeply wounding farce!

I don't know how many of you remember Godspell? It was a show that opened in Broadway in 1971 and came out as a film in 1973. In one scene Christ receives a verbal hammering from one of the disciples and he simply opens his arms and remains silent as he “receives” the abuse.

Over and over Jesus had to struggle with people who wounded him again and again with their words and anger. What lessons can we learn from how he reacts?

At the touch of provocation, frail creatures that we are, we tend either to jump to react in anger or alternatively become sullen and lick our wounds, internalising our anger. That is a very human reaction, but Jesus does neither of these things.

Jesus chooses both forgiveness and grace even in the face of the most awful hostility – how is this possible? It is only possible because he actually loved the people who were being so hostile!

We need to get to the root of who Jesus is to understand him. His motivation was to do what pleased his Father in Heaven first and always. This is a motivation cultivated by divine love for the most hostile of sinners [think of the apostle Paul].

Prayer is a place to which Jesus consistently turned. In prayer he began to see us as we so often fail to see ourselves – beloved of God.

Try and think of this illustration. A vacuum cleaner absorbs dirt and then stores it within itself – whereas a washing machine cleans the dirt from the clothes and discharges the dirt and leaves the clothes clean. Forgiveness leaves the offender and the offended clean and free. Jesus absorbed our sins and then discharged them through forgiveness and because of love.

So, when Jesus looks at every one of us, he sees a broken person, and no matter how broken, who is loved and whom he longs to forgive and make whole. It is only when we enter into that divine reality with Jesus that we can become whole and we learn to forgive, love and let go with no need to justify ourselves or respond in anger or retribution.

**Iain**

## Intimations

Services will be at the normal times on Sunday – Facebook will go on at 9am, Zoom at 9.45.

Zoom Service on Wednesday at 6.30pm beginning at 6.45 – please note the slight change of time, where we are looking at the life of Paul. This is a series of reflections by Con Campbell with the filming shot in situ.

At Easter I am planning to send round an Easter Card from the Church to at least 500 homes and would love to put a knitted cross in each envelope – pattern can be got from Irene on 01383731947 [ireneandjim@gmail.com](mailto:ireneandjim@gmail.com) or June on 01383724992 [junemaco@gmail.com](mailto:junemaco@gmail.com).

## HYMN VERSES

Our chosen verse for this week comes again from Ross Kerr, elder and Editor of our Magazine.

Our verse this week comes from the hymn “Here I am Lord” which is number 251 and verse 1 in the Church Hymnary:

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in Dark and Sin,  
My Hand will save.  
I who made the stars at night,  
I will make their darkness bright,  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord, is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night,  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your People in my Heart.

**“I think this is an extremely emotional Hymn with very much a calling from God to do his bidding with the talents (hidden or known) he has given us. I have no doubts that we are placed on this earth to help others and make a difference in their lives.!”**

[If you have a verse from a hymn you would like to offer – even anonymously – just drop me a note or an email.]



**“Political correctness is tyranny with manners.”– Charlton Heston**

**“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”– Dalai Lama**

**“If you think nobody cares if you’re alive, try missing a couple of car payments.”– Earl Wilson**