

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 17

Sunday 1st September 2024

- 1 River, wash over me,
Cleanse me and make me new.
Bathe me, refresh me and fill me anew,
River wash over me.

- 2 Spirit, watch over me,
Lead me to Jesus' feet.
Cause me to worship and fill me anew,
Spirit, watch over me.

- 3 Jesus, rule over me,
Reign over all my heart.
Teach me to praise You and fill me anew,
Jesus, rule over me.

Dougie Brown



Bible Readings

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Collect

Merciful God,

Your Son came to save us

And bore our sins on the cross:

May we trust in your mercy

And know your love,

Rejoicing in the righteousness

That is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord

A man died recently and went to heaven. He was very happy up there, as he wandered about, exploring the place. One Sunday morning he bumped into Jesus (it could happen up there, just as sure as down here!). Jesus called him over to show him something. He opened a sort of trap door in the floor of heaven, so that the man could look through, and see even as far as the earth below. Eventually, Jesus got to focus his attention on a church, his own local church at home, where there was a full congregation at Mass. The man watched for a while, and then something began to puzzle him. He could see the priest moving his lips, and turning over the pages. He could see the choir holding their hymnals, and the organist thumping the keyboards. But he couldn't hear a sound. It was total silence. Thinking that the amplification system in heaven had broken down, he turned to Jesus for an explanation.

Jesus looked at him in surprise. "Didn't anybody ever tell you? We have a rule here that if they don't do those things down there with their hearts, we don't hear them up here at all!"

StF 248

Horatius Bonar

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad,
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise,
And all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
Till travelling days are done.

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 18

Sunday 8th September 2024



Bible Readings

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Collect

Lord God,

Defend your Church from all false teaching

And give to your people knowledge of your truth,

That we may enjoy eternal life

In Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you put a buzzard in a pen that is 6 feet by 8 feet and is entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of its ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of 10 to 12 feet. Without space to run, as is its habit, it will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A bumblebee, if dropped into an open tumbler, will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, we are like the buzzard, the bat, and the bumblebee. We struggle about with all our problems and frustrations, never realizing that all we have to do is look up! That's the answer, the escape route and the solution to any problem! Just look up.

- 1 I'm not ashamed to name my Lord,
or to defend his cause,
maintain the honour of his word,
the glory of his cross.

- 2 Jesus, my God! - I know his name,
his name is all my trust;
he will not put my soul to shame
nor let my hope be lost.

- 3 Firm as his throne his promise stands,
and he can well secure
what he entrusted to my hands
until that final hour.

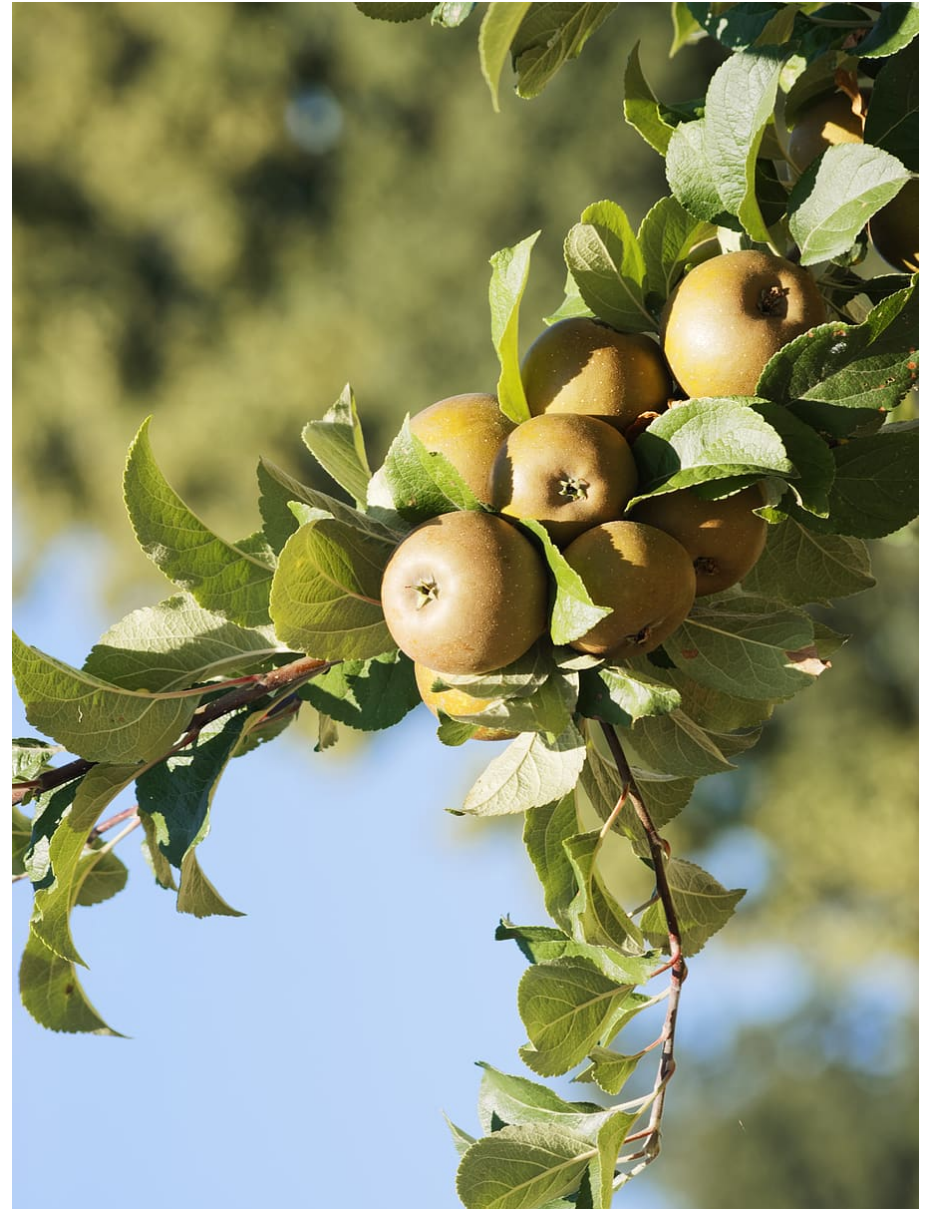
- 4 Then he'll make known my guilty name
before his Father's face,
and in the new Jerusalem
appoint to me a place.

Isaac Watts

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 19

Sunday 15th September 2024



Bible Readings

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Collect

Lord of creation,

Whose glory is around and within us:

Open our eyes to your wonders,

That we may serve you with reverence

And know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The people of Lithuania take cross bearing more seriously than we do; for them the cross symbolizes faith, hope and love. There are crosses everywhere: in the countryside; on roads; in city parks and village squares.

People erect crosses to bring them health and to commemorate events like weddings, births and christenings. Crosses are also erected to mark historical events, one of these is the Baltic Way, when millions of people linked hands stretching across the Baltics from Estonia to Lithuania on August 25, 1989. About 9 monuments commemorate this extraordinary event.

The nation's pride is the Hill of Crosses, located north of Siauliai. Lithuanians erected crosses over 150 years ago; the Soviet government wouldn't tolerate that kind of spiritual expression, so they destroyed the hill in 1961, then again in 1973 and 1975. But people kept erecting more crosses, until in 1980 their destruction stopped. Today there are many thousands of crosses of different sizes and shapes, all immortalizing Lithuania's troubles, misfortunes, joys, hopes and faith.

For Lithuanians the cross is more than a symbol in the church, it is a symbol for the world to see; a symbol that will not go away; a symbol of sacrifice. A sacrifice that gives each and every one of us hope and faith and courage.

StF39

Francis Pott

- 1 Angel voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.
- 2 Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
sinful woman, man?
Can we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.
- 3 Lord, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
maker's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure
all combine.
- 4 In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer
all unworthily
hearts and minds and hands and voices
in our choicest psalmody.

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 20

Sunday 22nd September 2024



Bible Readings

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalm 1

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Collect

Gracious God,

You call us to fullness of life:

Deliver us from unbelief

And banish our anxieties

With the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is human to fall victim to the tendency to try to control the Spirit of God by our intolerance: to insist that another isn't qualified to speak on justice or morality because of their lack of formal education, different lifestyle, social background or race.

As a society, we also tend to question people's legitimacy especially when they challenge us.

Mohandas Gandhi, a Hindu leader in India, challenged the colonial rule of the British Empire over India with his principles of peace and non-violence. But the British Government initially dismissing him as a 'half naked fakir' tried to silence him by imprisonment. Later they found, to their horror, that the entire nation was behind him in its fight for freedom from colonial rule.

Nelson Mandela was ignored by the minority ruling class and was jailed for many years as a radical because of his option for the poor and oppressed in South Africa.

Martin Luther King Jr challenged a nation and its policy of discrimination. He was continually under surveillance by the FBI and accused of inciting sedition and of being unpatriotic.

There are Christians who still look on those of other denominations or other faiths as heretics.

In today's gospel Jesus gives his disciples a lesson in tolerance along with a warning against jealousy and scandal.

Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song, for else the theme
too high doth seem for mortal tongue.

Ye blessed souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race
and now, from sin released,
behold your Savior's face,
his praises sound, as in his sight
with sweet delight ye do abound.

Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives and praise him still,
through good or ill, who ever lives!

My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above:
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love!
Let all thy days till life shall end,
whate'er he send, be filled with praise!

The Cotteridge Church

Proper 21

Sunday 29th September 2024



Bible Readings

Genesis 28 10-17

Psalms 103 1-9

Revelation 12.7-12

John 1.47- end

Collect

God, our judge and saviour,

Teach us to be open to your truth

And to trust in your love,

That we may live each day

With confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A legend is told about Abraham, the grand patriarch, that he always delayed eating his breakfast until a hungry person came past to share it with him.

One day an elderly man came along, so Abraham invited him to join him. The man accepted the invitation and said a pagan blessing over his food. Abraham immediately jumped up and ordered the man out from his table and his house.

Then God spoke to Abraham "Abraham, Abraham! I have been supplying that unbeliever with food every day for the last eighty years, could you not have tolerated him for just one meal?"

We are all children of God and so we have to love and tolerate everyone.