

CHALLENGES AHEAD

SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2022

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Markinch and Thornton Parish Church

SUNDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY
2022

6TH SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

*Sunday morning services
will take place in Thornton
at 9:45am and in Markinch
at 11.15am*

*Our growing young people's
Sunday School is from
11am to 12.15pm in
Markinch Church Hall. For
more information get in
touch.*

*Teas and coffees have
resumed in Markinch after
the service so please join us
for that time of fellowship.*

"POWER WAS
COMING FROM
HIM AND
HEALING
THEM ALL"

LUKE 6:19

A CHALLENGING MESSAGE

One of the difficult aspects of faith, and in particular our understanding of Jesus, is that he doesn't always fit into our image of him. Or maybe that would be better described as: the image that we have of him is a sort of otherworldly, lovely man, with little in the way of emotion, going around being nice to everyone; never angry and never challenging. Many of us have grown up and become used to an idea of Jesus as a benign good force, someone to look up to, someone to point to as a good example. But not someone who has laid down commandments and instructions for us to follow.

We don't often imagine him as someone who raged at injustice, who overturned tables. Who was whipped, and broken, and murdered. We are used to, and dare I say it, we are comfortable with, a sanitised Jesus, a fluffy Jesus, who we can think of when we want, and who doesn't intrude too much on our daily lives and interests.

The problem is that this is not the Jesus of the Bible. This is not the person we hear from in our bible readings this week or indeed any week. He does of course preach love, kindness, care, and compassion for all. He does walk alongside us in every darkness. He does hold us, and carry us, and protect us in the most difficult times. But this does not mean that that is all he does or says. This week our reading from Luke's Gospel is a helpful reminder of this. On the one hand, Jesus' unending, unquenchable, unreserved love is displayed to and for all. On the other, Jesus offers a stark warning to all of us who have become complacent, or have forgotten about their neighbour, or have become used to and expectant of the good life, caring little for those who are on the margins, or are poor, or lonely, or despised.

God is love, Jesus is love, but this love is not blind. Jesus is challenging us to change our ways, to recognise the plight of others, to see that though we may be comfortable, the person next door may not. This is not the easy-going Jesus we sometimes like to think of; this is the real Jesus, the one we have and the one we need.

This week then, I wonder if one of the messages we can take from the Gospel is that Christianity, that faith, that Jesus, that God is not just nice, not just easy, not just a secondary thought. But the driving force, the challenge to the world, the uncomfortable truth in our everyday lives, and the power that is drawing us ever towards a better way of living and being.

I pray then, that we all take some time over the next few days to let ourselves be challenged by Jesus, to try something new, and to seek out ways to serve the world and make the lives of others better.

With every blessing,
Conor



FLOWERS



As you will have noticed we are back to having fresh flowers in both churches on Sundays.

If you know of anyone who would appreciate receiving a bunch of flowers following the Sunday service, whether that's because they have had a bereavement, or illness, or an anniversary or birthday, please let either Margaret Colville (Thornton) or Teresa Henderson (Markinch), or the Minister know.

If you would like to contribute towards providing flowers, and perhaps have them dedicated to the memory of a friend or family member on a specific date, please also get in touch with Margaret or Teresa.

PASTORAL CARE

One of the most important, and best, things we do is care for those around us. Our purpose, as Christians, is to share God's love in the world. We are a community of people trying to care for each other and all those whom we meet. This isn't always easy in Covid times, but I am glad to say that we all continue to try our best.

If you know of anyone who is ill, or bereaved, or who needs a phone call or visit please get in touch with the Minister or your Elder. This is the only way that we can know who needs support.

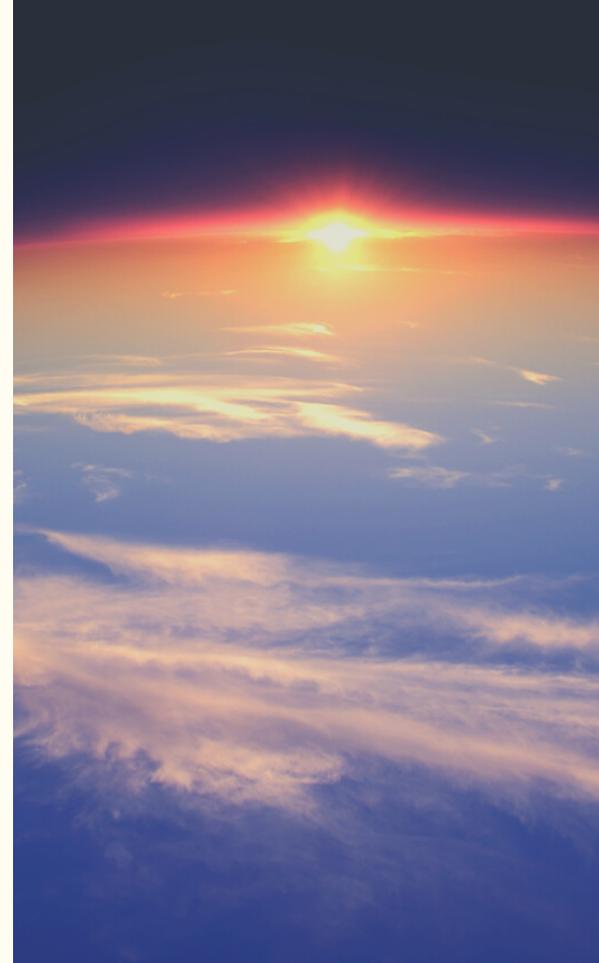


COVENANTED PARTNERSHIP

The hub in the Kingdom Centre will now be called The Haven, please get in touch to volunteer.

A new Facebook Group has been set up, called 'Covenanted Partnership Glenrothes Area' so please join to keep up to date.

The next shared service will be February 27th at 6.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Glenrothes.



Poetry Corner & So by Amanda Gorman

It is easy to harp
Harder to hope.

The truth, like the white blown sky,
Can only be felt in its entirety or not at all.
The Glorious was not made to be
piecemeal.
Despite being drenched with dread,
This dark girl still dreams.
We smile like the sun that is never
shunted.

Grief, when it goes, does so softly,
Like the exit of that breath
We just realised we clutched.

Since the world is round,
There is no way to walk away
From each other, for even then
We are coming back together.

Some distances, if allowed to grow,
Are merely the greatest proximities.



THIS SUNDAY INTIMATIONS

The Readings this week are:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 17:5-10

New Testament: Luke 6:17-26

The theme of this week's all age message is 'Jesus is here' and the sermon topic is 'The Other Beatitudes'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, stories, or ideas that you would like added to the newsletter, please get in touch or send it to the minister on or before Wednesday each week.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Kirk Session has agreed to set the date of the next in person Holy Communion as 27th February at 9.45am in Thornton and 11.15am in Markinch.

PICK A HYMN

Do you have a favourite hymn? Starting in March one hymn per week can be suggested by you. If you have one (or more) you would like to hear please get in touch with the minister.

Children and Young People

Committee Meeting:

A meeting of the Children and Young People Committee will take place in Markinch Session House at 7.30pm on Wednesday 16th February.

Thornton Food Bank and Glenrothes Area Food Bank:

We continue to collect donations in both churches and all will be gratefully received.

The Sunday School appreciates the ongoing support of their sponsored child Surafel. There is a collection box in Markinch Church for any donations.

Covenanted Partnership Hub:

Volunteers are needed for an exciting new venture in the Kingdom Shopping Centre during Lent. The Covenanted Partnership is going to run a drop-in centre. This is a new project and it needs volunteers to make it a success, so please get in touch with the Session Clerk if you want further information or can give some time to it:
sessionclerk@markinchandthorntonchurch.org.uk

Next Sunday

The theme for next Sunday 20 February 2022 will be 'Love your enemies'

Readings:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Luke 6:27-38

Contact

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