

26 June 2022

Worship Sheet for Sunday 26 June

On the move

Jesus visits a Samaritan town but is rejected when residents hear that he is bound for Jerusalem. Some of his disciples are reacted badly, suggesting fire from heaven! Jesus knew better, that love triumphs in the end. We explore the need for fresh and expanding vision – not least of God’s kingdom values and consider the importance of responding to Jesus’ call to mission – no excuses but no arm twisting either.

Call: Jesus calls us to meet him here, we gather as brothers and sisters in Christ. We come as we are, as we were made, we come to offer ourselves to Jesus. We come knowing that our offering means sacrifice, knowing it means hard decisions and choices. We come ready to offer ourselves, all that we are and all that we do we offer now to Jesus.

Pray : God of all grace, we come before you this day, in our homes and in this building, seeking your wisdom, leaning on your strength, and giving thanks for your presence, as we once again dedicate ourselves to you, as we journey on through life and faith. God of all love, we come before you in need, wondering about pain in the world, crying out about violence in the world, worrying about the present and the future, be with us in our struggles, guide us in our choices, love us in our mistakes. God of all forgiveness, we come before you as we are, made up of all our choices, all our decisions, all our tests and trials, highs and lows, fears and doubts. Forgive us, we pray, for all those things we each bring to you now. **Silence** In this season of hope, of rejoicing in the presence of you, our God, three in one, Father, Son, and Spirit, we give thanks for the knowledge that we are forgiven, always and completely when we choose to follow you, and so, it is with that knowledge and your presence that we have the confidence to pray in Jesus’ name and together say Our Father...

Reading Luke 9:51-62 Foxes have holes.

Thought We often jump to criticise, if not condemn, those who take a different view from us. Often, the stronger we feel about an issue the more forceful we become and the less likely we are to listen. As someone once said, you won’t win anyone to the kingdom by argument, you might by love. Jesus put a stop to the disciples who wanted to call down heavenly fire upon the town who rejected Jesus. He knew that loving people was the way forward. He could be quite tough and unrelenting with those who came with plausible excuses for not following him (I need to bury my father – had that been true, Jesus would have been kindly towards them!). And yet, he was slow to accept the grand declaration of another – I will follow you wherever you go. Jesus, presumably gently, told him that that following him would be tough – giving him the opportunity to think things through. Of course, Jesus wants us to follow him but we need to remember that he also equips us for his service. We tend to think of those who have a lot going for themselves and usually don’t rate ourselves but we aren’t called to be superstars; we don’t need to be proficient at everything. But we do need to have a heart that is open to Jesus’ love and is ready to accept his gifts and share them with others. The glory is to be his, not ours. We don’t all have to leave home and livelihood to follow in Jesus’ steps but we do need to appreciate that his love is so much more important than a quiet and comfortable life. How might we be more open to Jesus’ love?

Praise CH4 502 Take my life Lord let it be Online v 1,2 & 5.

Pray Loving God, this day we have each made the choice to try to follow you We may have been tempted to stay away but we chose to come and worship. Help us, we pray, to continue to make this choice through whatever tests and trials we face. Jesus, Prince of peace, this week, as violence continues, as inhumanity is commonplace, as war rages at home and all across the world, be with us, be beside us and lead us always to your path, and give the strength wisdom and humility to those who incite hatred and start wars, to see that we always have a choice to change and repent. Holy Spirit, our sustenance and strength breathe your fire of hope and joy into our church, here in this parish, this country, and this world, help all your people to choose to continue on the path of faith through every test and every doubt. In our

prayer walk this week we pray for those who live or work in Ben More Ave and Garvock Ave and in these difficult times, we pray for all those known to us and unknown who are bereaved, lonely, isolated, excluded, or are in need of you in any way. Hear now the prayers in each of our hearts: SILENCE. God, in good times and bad, who stands with us in every trial and every test, be with each of us now and help us in every choice we make today and every day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Blessing May the Lord bless you. Amen.

Notices

- **We have further relaxed our covid requirements but would still ask everyone to exercise caution and sensitivity.**
- **Communion Sunday on 26 June.**
- **Coffee morning on Sat 2 July is in support of the Summer Mission which begins on Monday 4th.**
- **All age event on Sat 9th.**
- **Café style Service in the hall on Sun 10th at the end of the Mission week followed by lunch.**
- **Volunteers to assist with the Summer Mission week – we'd like to hear from you.**

To assist those unable to access material via the internet we have established a phone line where people can phone in to hear the mini service or sermon.

01674 902624.

To hear the mini service people just need to dial in and wait. To hear the sermon, after dialling you need to press 1 then #. In either case there is a few seconds delay while the message loads so tell folk not to hang up! If folk press 1 for the sermon before the intro finishes the system doesn't pick up on it and it defaults to the mini service. The message now says wait until after the tone before pressing 1 but give it a few seconds after that and do press # after pressing 1.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website www.oldandstandrews.com and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember that the congregation is united in love wherever we are and however we are worshipping.

Stay safe! May the Lord bless you!

Ian

Rev Dr Ian A McLean