

New Kilpatrick

Sunday 23rd August 2020

Communion

Matthew 16:13-20

Welcome

Hello... thank you once more for the invitation to join you... but today... we join a whole crowd of people... past and present... and we join them at the table... a table where we share bread and wine together today...

Last week the Canaanite woman... the least in her community... opened Jesus eyes to the possibility that the kingdom was universal... where everyone was invited... Even the dogs eat the crumbs...

And the crumbs are enough... The whole of the kingdom is contained in just the crumbs... so all of us... us who are the gentiles... whose legacy is that of the Canaanite woman... are welcome... so we gather...

You may wish to pause here for a moment to fetch some bread and some juice or wine... and come back to this virtual table.....

So welcome... everyone... of every race and colour and language and culture... of every faith and none... of every age and generation and gender and sexuality... every denomination and none... those confident... those doubting... and all of us in between... It is an open table we gather round...

Let us pray

Gathering Prayer

As we gather round the table
To listen to the stories that call us in
May we recognise the humanity
And vulnerability of us all.

Here in the place where we meet
Wherever that may be
Whomever that may be with
May we recognise our shared
community and love.

Just as the crumbs fell under the table
Today, may we all come forward to the table
Where the least are called first
And recognise the sanctity of this space.

Reading – Matthew 16:13–20

Jesus and the disciples arrived in Caesarea Philippi. But what you need to know is that in this place, many Romans and Greeks lived. And so the village was surrounded by statues of Zeus and Apollo and the emperor. So many.

And surrounded by all these statues of other gods, Jesus paused, looked at them all and asked his disciples: “Who do people say I am?”

The didn't hesitate. They had lots to choose from.

“Some think you are John the Baptizer, some say Elijah, some Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

But Simon Peter, in a moment of inspiration said, “You're the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

“God bless you, Simon” said Jesus, “You didn't get that answer out of books or from teachers. God himself, let you in on who I really am. And now I'm going to tell you who you are, *really* are. You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so great with energy that not even the gates of the underworld will be able to keep it out.”

Who Do You Say I am?

Who do we say Jesus is? What words can we use today, surrounded by our contemporary statues of those who like to think they are godlike, through fame or wealth or position... or companies and social media whose popularity lift them above others. Who do we say Jesus is today... We asked members of the congregation... here is what they said...

Stories

Who do you say I am... You are a story... a story that leads here to this table... a table set with stories... each one saying... This is who you are...

David

All stories call us to the table to break bread.

Mary and Martha waiting and serving,
preparing the table to be spiritually fed.

Kirsteen

All stories call us to the table to break bread
5000 waiting hungry
are fed food and justice and love

Alfred

All stories call us to the table to break bread
of Zacchaeus searching high
called down into companionship

Ian G

All stories call us to the table to break bread.
When we walk with questions to Emmaus
we recognise who is in our midst.

Iain M

All stories call us to the table to break bread.
Where neighbour checks neighbour
and community pulls together as one

Linda

All stories call us to the table to break bread.
In the feeding our neighbours today,
and all who need are fed.

Roddy

All stories call us to the table to break bread
and in the tangle of them all
we say "this is who you are"

Invitation

This is who you are
an invitation
to us all
to share this story
of body broken
together

And God calls us by our names to be here.
Say your name
for you are invited
just as you are
whoever you are
wherever you are
We are here
God is here
all are invited

if you are a member or not
a believer or not
God is bigger than this table
the church
the bible
and all are welcome
let's gather

Communion Prayer

Loving God, you gather us in to your presence, into your love, into your forgiveness, in you there is no beginning, no end. When you invite us in, you hold us, you forgive us, there is no place where you are not, facing out towards us where no one is hidden from your sight, no one excluded from your presence.

And here we praise you and we thank you, for your generous providing

This is who we say you are:

Bread maker
story teller
friend of children
thank you
for bread
and story
and a table to share them

and as we stir in the ingredients
and wait for its rising
and the baking into it
of every story
may the bread we break
and the loaves we share
tell your story
of love
of celebration
of life
and promise

Come let us make
bake
and break bread
in your name

Amen

Communion

In this new way
we share an old, old story together

This bread is special
because it speaks of Jesus

who gave everything away
and shared everything he had
and in doing so
found love

This is who Jesus said he was

So with me
together
let us all
take the bread we have before us
lift it

and together
break it
as a sign of the body of Christ
broken for us all

Let us lift the cup
a sign of the new promise
sealed in Jesus name

And let us eat
and let us drink
and remember
Jesus Christ
among us all

The gifts of God
for the people of God
please share
and feast
and let us do that together

Peace

How do we share the peace when we cannot touch?
When we are out of range of each other

Worry not. We asked the Zoomday School for suggestions.

Namaste
Peace in sign language
Making a heart shape with your hands
However you chose
Peace be with you
May peace be with us all
Amen

Sending Prayer

Loving God
we give thanks
for we have shared stories
community
peace
friendship
company
bread
love

May we go now
into the world
with these very gifts
saying: This is who we say you are

and in your name
in this new community
celebrate
your promise
your belonging
your love
with all

Hear us as we say the Lord's Prayer
Our father
Who art in heavens
Hallowed thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is on heaven
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
Ut deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the lory

For ever
Amane

Benediction

Go into the world
renewed and reborn
And let us repeat the grace
together

Announcements

Thank you for your company... Thank you for letting us be your company today... To all those whose voices you heard and faces you saw today... a big thank you... We've been sharing communion across all our platforms, here, Podcasts, Zoom and phone line... together we have made community in this new way...

We aren't yet able to meet together in church... but that just invites us to keep being creative and exploring ways we can gather in our new context... When we open for worship... with we imagine will be in the next few weeks... we will be limited to 50 people... all wearing face masks... socially distanced and not able to sing... We will reshape our worship when we do meet to suit that context... but we will continue to meet here online or by phone for it will be a while yet before we can gather safely...

So please keep safe... break bread again with those you can... and we look forward to gathering again next time... Take care... hope to see you soon...