



Good Morning,

welcome to another Written Devotional as we celebrate in Church round the Lord's Table together once more. As we look back on the time we have come through and now look forward to perhaps truly coming out of this painful lockdown period, we can be thankful to God that He has brought us through it and dare to hope that we will once again not need to worry about masks or social distance and maybe even enjoy the privilege of shaking someone's hand again or giving a loved one you've not seen in long and weary, a long overdue Bear Hug of affection.

Wilma and I are taking a few days away next week and I have to say we are both really looking forward to it as we return to the East Neuk of Fife for a short break, a part of Scotland we have always loved visiting (not just because we'll be enjoying the World renowned Anstruther Fish & Chips restaurant).

With my return not being till the weekend I am going to suspend the Devotional for next week as I will also be involved in the funeral Service one of our members next Saturday (further details in the Announcement Pages) and my time will be taken up with preparation for the funeral and Sunday Morning Worship next weekend. This is perhaps a good opportunity for me to submit notice that when the National Church formally moves down from Tier 2 (where we are now with the current restrictions) to Tier 1 where we will be able to see a resumption of Congregational Singing in Public Worship and the requirement to wear masks during a church service will be lifted, It will be then that I will stop doing the devotionals on a weekly basis continuing to produce such a Devotional once a month for the benefit primarily of those less able to get out and about.

We have used this Devotional to try and keep in touch with as many people as we could, but now with public worship all but fully reinstated in Tier 1 and the possibility that we might enjoy tea and coffee round the table with one another again is a day for us to truly look forward to. We still for now have to be patient as we are not quite there yet but the good news it is a day for us to look forward to and I believe it is a day that is not so far off. On that positive note let me say that I hope you enjoy the Devotional this week as we reflect on What God's Word has to say to in Colossians Chapter 3 as we consider "Christ – our All in all".

In the meantime... have a great week

Calum D. Macdonald

Announcements for
COMMUNION
Sunday
13th June 2021



Our Retiral Offering at this
time is in support of...



*A Word of Thanks
from the outgoing
Flower Convenor*



My thanks to Anne Hamilton and Val Richmond who have both offered to relieve me of my duties as Flower convenor. I am very Grateful to them both and have every confidence that they will do a superb job.

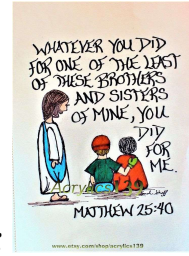
I want to also take the opportunity to thank those who have been so helpful these past 2 years, those who have donated financially or who have delivered flowers to the Church, those who arranged the Flowers as well as those who delivered to the many households of our congregation and beyond and I hope they will all continue to support our joint convenors, Anne and Val as they carry this worthwhile Ministry forward.

Flowers this week were Donated by Fiona Gilbert in fond memory of her Mother. There have been 2 further donations for Flowers for today from Mrs L. McCarry in memory of her mums Birthday and Anniversary 11th June along with Jennifer Burns who also gave a generous contribution.



To prevent congestion at the Door and thus maintain Social Distance
Please give advanced notice of your intention to attend Church that Sunday. This is very important and easy to do. Simply contact Bert or Sandra Dickov on either
01413168143 or 07947611412

Although in Tier 2 of the Lockdown Protocol, please remember to follow the one way system in place, social distance, sanitisation, wearing a mask, etc for everyone's safety.



Carnwadric Church Foodbank Shopping List

UHT milk, Sugar, Coffee and Diluting Juice along with tinned products such as:- Tinned carrots or peas Custard, Rice pudding, Fruit, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Soups plus **Tinned meals:** Mince, Stews, Hotdogs, Ham, Corned Beef, Ravioli, Mac & Cheese As well as Cleaning Products & Personal Hygiene Products. -

**A Big Thank You from all at the Foodbank Team
at Carnwadric Church.**



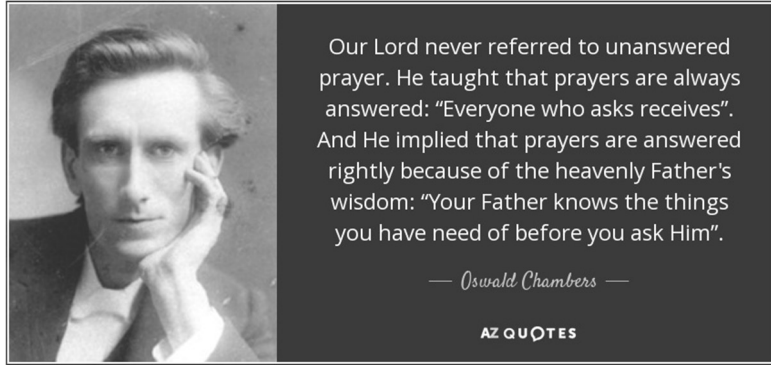
It is my sad duty to let everyone know of the Death of one of our Members, Mrs Ann Wylie, who died on Sat 5th June in the Queen Elizabeth Universities Hospital after a short period of illness.

Arrangements are now in place for her funeral service and there will be a Memorial Service held in Park Church on Saturday 19th June at 10am after which the family and those attending will travel to Linn Crematorium for a service of Committal at 11am

Please remember her Husband Donny, their two sons Craig and Scott, their wives and families along with her sister Maie and the wider family as well as those who were her good friends



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Let us Pray...

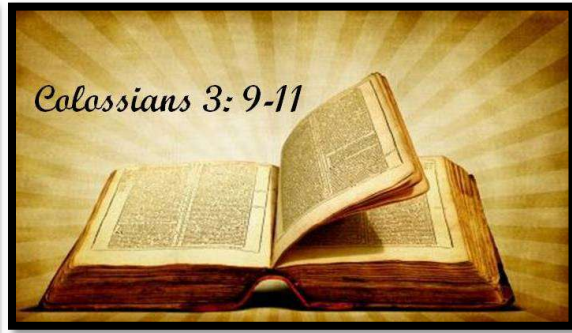
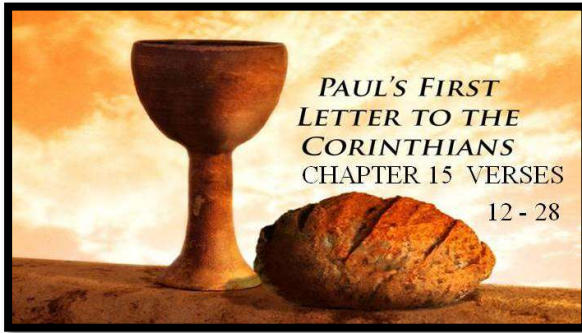
Father in Heaven as we draw near to you again at the close of one week and the beginning of another, we would want to accord our thanks for your ever abiding Presence through the challenges that we have thus far faced and for the blessing that we will yet receive. We come to affirm our faith and trust in the Living God once more whose Grace and mercy we wholly lean upon, whose all encompassing love we are grateful for and whose Son was a gift to this broken world beyond compare.

Father you have given us the privilege of being part of your Heavenly family, the church and we thank you for that gift, for the companionship it offers throughout the course of our lives. It is a marvellous thing that we can come together in your house but also spend time before you in the privacy of our homes and pray to One who will not just hear us but answer in ways we cannot begin to anticipate, that we can express our faith in Jesus again and thank You for that faith.

We confess gracious God that we have not always been faithful in fulfilling your call upon us. There have been times when we have acted in ways we shouldn't when dealing with others, there have been things we have said when we shouldn't in responding to others and we have harboured the wrong mindset when approaching situations. Direct our hearts and minds towards You always, we pray, fill us with your Spirit and bestow upon us that sense of your Presence that refreshes the soul, renews the spirit, brings peace, and joy. Remind us that you are faithful when it comes to carrying our burdens. Renew our strength, and remind us of your Promise as we consider what your Word has to say to us.

Almighty God and Father Your Word tells us that You are never closer than to those who are broken-hearted, That You hear our prayers, and know our hearts. We thank You for your daily, powerful presence in our lives, for the reassurance that it brings and the promises we can hold on to. We thank You that your ways are not our ways and your Thoughts are not our thoughts for you are holy and just.

So in the closing moments of this prayer it is our desire to offer not just our thanks but our Service. May we serve our Saviour honourably in this coming week as we bear witness to Your Love , your Grace, Your Mercy and Your Peace for this we pray in Jesus' name Amen.



1 Corinthians 15:12-28

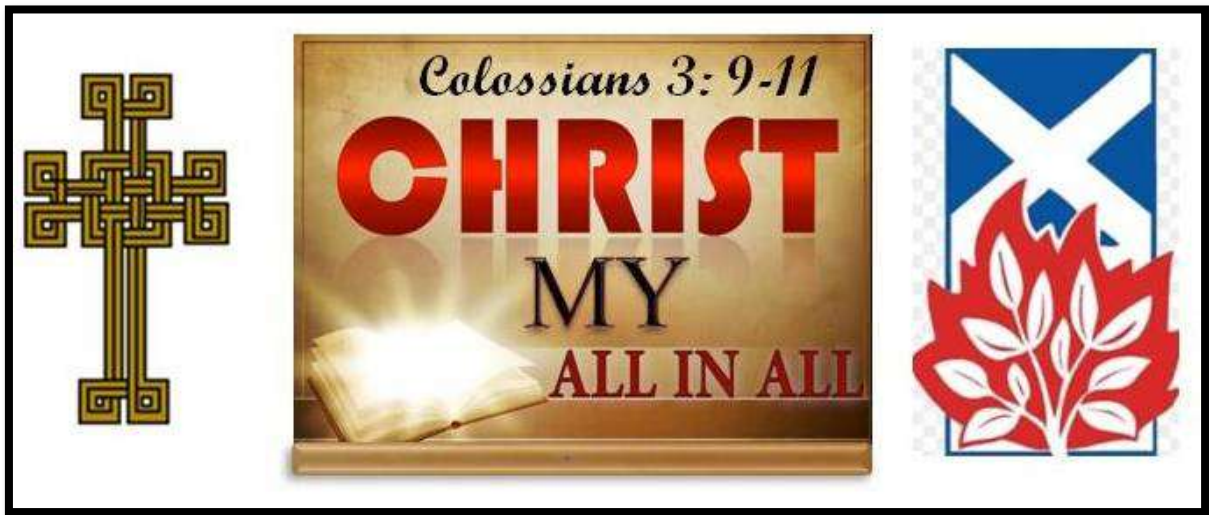
The Resurrection of the Dead

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

*²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he 'has put everything under his feet'.^[c] Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, **so that God may be all in all.***

Colossians 3:9-11

⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.



Good morning,

When was the last time we ever heard someone say something that was so culturally, politically or religiously transformative that it would change the way the world would see things? I don't mean the latest invention or craze or political trend or even theological perspective. When was the last time anyone said something that truly proved to be the moment in History when people's fortunes would change forever - Was it maybe the famous speech by John F Kennedy announcing they were going to go to the Moon, "not because it was easy but because it was Hard" or Martin Luther King's famous sermon 'I have a Dream Speech where he said, "I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Maybe it was Winston Churchill at the end of the Battle of Britain in 1940 with his 'Never in the field of Human conflict' speech ? Was it maybe the speech of William Wilberforce passing the legislation that would bring Slave ownership and the trafficking of Slaves to an end in 1833? (Or so we had hoped but these recent years have revealed the story of slavery to be still very much alive and kicking.)

Both our readings this morning I believe focus on such a moment of history and as we reflect on what these words have to say to us I trust they will be words that we can truly see the God given revelation of Grace and Mercy at Work along with opportunity and discovery.

Our primary Focus is that of the reading of Colossians 3: 9-11. The 1 Corinthians reading reminds us very strongly of where our faith and hopes should lie and why.

“²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, **so in Christ all will**

be made alive.” (1 Corinthians 15: 20-22) The closing words of our reading speak of how God himself will be “all in all.” The Colossians Reading speaks of how “Christ is all, and in all”, (Col 3: 11)



John Perowne,
Bishop of Worcester,
a respected Hebrew
Scholar of the late
19th & very early 20th
century and Editor of
the Cambridge Bible
for Schools and
Colleges

In his collections of writings for the Bible Commentary known as the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges, the commentator of Colossians writes, *“but all things, and in all (persons), are—Christ. Such was the union of every believer with Him, that each was to each an embodiment as it were of His presence and life. In this respect all differences, national, ritual, educational, social, were assimilated in the eyes of faith and love. Facts of race, history, status, were not indeed contradicted, but they were overruled, and transfigured into mere varying phases of a central union in the Lord, Who shone equally through all His members.*

When Paul the Apostle wrote these words I wonder if he ever knew how dynamic these words are. Consider these words for a moment and their impact.

“11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” (Col 3:11) The enormity of that statement crossed the Religious, Political and Cultural norms of the Day. It challenged the very heart of Judaism itself, it challenged the core of the Empire who sought to enforce that Caesar was Lord and not Jesus. It directly challenged the very issue of Slavery which without such a class of people the Empire would have collapsed. For the Christian, no matter who you were or where you were from, you stood shoulder to shoulder with the Christian next to you as an equal. Jews no longer had the monopoly of the 'One True God'. It didn't matter if you were circumcised or not. Those who were Barbarians referring to those who came from beyond the edge of the Empire - what was then understood to be 'the Known World', while they could be cultured even although from outwith all that was Rome, you had the same equal standing as a Christian. Then there

was the Scythian - thought to be a reference to those nomadic peoples of the East who were later to become known as the Mongols and Tartares that ravaged the Empire in the time of Rome's Decline centuries later. They were regarded as a wild and savage race.

The meaning here is clear, that even such a ferocious and uncivilized people were not to be excluded from the Gospel, but were to be as welcome as any other, and entitled to the same privileges as others. No one was to be excluded because they belonged to the most rude and uncivilized portion of mankind. The Gospel could apply to Jew and Gentile alike, to Roman Citizens and those who were not, those who were Barbarians who could be civilised in some ways as well as those who were deemed to be the Scythians and to cap it all off the relationship between the Slave and the free in Church terms was to be one of Equal standing. This Comment was explosive in so many respects but in one other way they fulfil the call of Jesus as we consider that conversation of Jesus with Nicodemus that John the Apostle writes about coining the most well known verse of the Old and New Testament,

"For God So loved the world that WHOSOEVER believed in him should not
perish but have eternal life"

I want to suggest that there 3 things that we can learn from Verse 11.

- 1) That Paul the Apostle Saw an Example that He could Follow in Jesus
- 2) That Paul the apostle sought to be an example to Follow Like Jesus
- 3) That Paul the Apostle sought to Serve Christ Above all

That Paul the Apostle Saw an Example that He could Follow in Jesus

Many of the Apostle Paul's critics see him as one who was setting his own agenda and yet when you read his letters, the reality it seems to me to be in reverse that he actually looks at Jesus as the model to follow. "Some follow Peter, some follow Apollos, still others follow Paul - as for me - I follow Jesus" writes the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians Chapter 1. It seems to me He looks always to see what Jesus would want first.

The Story is told of a famous violinist who performed at a concert hall of world renown. As he stood before the packed house that night and played his violin, he mesmerized the audience with his prowess and skill. As he lifted his bow off the string on his final note, the hall erupted with such thunderous applause and he was given a standing ovation. He looked at the crowd for a moment and walked off the stage only to return to render an encore performance.

To the amazement of the masses gathered there that night, his encore performance was even more stunning and flawless than the first. He looked to the audience and left the stage for the second time, but was beckoned back by the deafening roar of the multitudes, who once again stood to their feet in adulation. He gave yet another encore performance that left the audience fumbling for words that could describe what their eyes and ears had seen and heard. This happened several more times until finally this virtuoso of virtuosos finished his piece, looked to the audience, nodded his head and simply walked off the stage while the ferocious cheers could still be heard long after he exited.

The reporters gathered outside the violinist's dressing room, sought to catch a word from the man who had just given the performance of a lifetime. As he emerged from the small room, one reporter asked the question, "Sir, why did you give so many encore performances? You could have stopped after the first and everyone would have been amazed."

The violinist stopped and replied, "For the very first time in my career, my master, the one who taught me to play the violin, was in the audience. When I finished my performance, everyone stood except for one person. I played again, and everyone stood to applaud except for him. I continued to play. On the conclusion of the last encore I looked into the seats and I noticed that everyone, including my master, was standing and applauding. It was only then that I was satisfied that I had done a good job."

Paul's Agenda is but one thing - He wanted to serve Jesus, whether establishing a new fellowship somewhere else, preaching in synagogues around the Empire of Rome or writing letters from a Prison Cell such as the letter he wrote to the Colossian Church, his one aim was to serve the Risen Jesus.

For us today, I sometimes wonder if we are not too willing to listen to all the other voices around other than the voice of Jesus. We should all be like the virtuoso Violinist whose eyes were firmly fixed on his Master and not the adulation of all the others round about. Jesus is always the example for us to follow.

That Paul the apostle sought to be an example to Follow Like Jesus

There is no doubt that Paul the Apostle sought to be a mentor to others. Barnabas in the early days had been a mentor to him and later he would mentor a number of others that we so often read of as his companions, John Mark, who became the author of Mark's Gospel, Luke the Doctor who wrote his Gospel account and the book that became known as the Acts of the

Apostles. Then there was Silas and Timothy to name but a few. Timothy is privileged to have letters specifically sent to him in order to encourage and assure him in his resolve to serve the Church and Jesus.

I will forever be grateful to a number of individuals who have been a significant influence over the course of my Christian Life, those who have taught me so much about my Christian Walk and the helpful guide that is the life of Jesus and the Word of God from Genesis to Revelation.

I came across this story which I think emphasises the point.

"When I was a small boy, I attended church every Sunday at a big Gothic Presbyterian Church in Chicago. The preaching was powerful and the music was great. But for me, the most awesome moment in the morning service was the offertory, when twelve solemn, frock-coated ushers marched in lock-step down the main aisle to receive the brass plates for collecting the offering. These men, so serious about their business of serving the Lord in this magnificent house of worship, were the business and professional leaders of Chicago.

One of the twelve ushers was a man named Frank Loesch. He was not a very imposing looking man, but in Chicago he was a living legend, for he was the man who had stood up to Al Capone. In the prohibition years, Capone's rule was absolute. Local and State police and even the Federal Bureau of Investigation were afraid to oppose him. But singlehandedly, Frank Loesch, as a Christian layman and without any government support, organized the Chicago Crime Commission, a group of citizens who were determined to take Mr. Capone to court and put him away.

During the months that the Crime Commission met, Frank Loesch's life was in constant danger. There were threats on the lives of his family and friends. But he never wavered. Ultimately he won the case against Capone and was the instrument for removing this blight from the city of Chicago. Frank Loesch had risked his life to live out his faith and in so doing did what was right. Each Sunday at this point of the service, my father, a Chicago businessman himself, never failed to poke me and silently point to Frank Loesch with pride. For my dad and for all of us this was and is what authentic living is all about."

Living an authentic Christian life is never easy but when such a life is lived, often others will see and respond accordingly. I have often said that as important as preaching is for the church of today, there is nothing more powerful than a life lived following Christ. The songwriter is definitely right when he said, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day"

Paul the Apostle Sought Serve Christ above all.

When his life was under threat Paul sought to serve, when he was in Prison, He sought to Serve and when under the sentence of death and awaiting his sentence to be carried out he still sought to serve Christ first in his writings.

The Songwriter citing the words of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians sums this whole notion up beautifully;-

*For me to live is Christ to die is gain
To hold His hand and walk His narrow way,
There is no peace, no joy, no thrill,
Like walking in His will,
For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.*


It was said that Napoleon once lost control of his horse and that a private jumping into the path of the horse took control of it. Napoleon then said, "Thank you, Captain." With that one word Napoleon promoted the soldier from the rank of private to captain because that soldier put his general first. With no thought for his own safety, the soldier thought to be of service to the Emperor of France. What price is service these days? Can we ever be going a step too far?

Paul sought to follow and example, be an example and serve Christ above all. Jesus truly was his "All in all"

We all could do well to be more like Paul!

Have a great Week

Calum



*May God's Blessing
be with us all
May the grace mercy and peace
of our Father be the light by
which we walk,
May the compassion of
Jesus be the love
by which we walk,
May the Presence of the Spirit
be the power by
which we walk.
Now and Always ... Amen*