

Good Morning

Welcome to our November Devotional which I hope will be an encouragement to you as we continue on this story of Covid recovery. It is hard to believe we are now pushing towards the 2yr marker of this crisis. It is not often I stray into the political forum but I have to say that as the course of last week unfolded and having heard the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer making a Budget Report to the House of Commons and how in that report the Chancellor made what I thought was a somewhat premature comment when he spoke of the nation being "in the Post Covid Recovery Period". I am sure those admitted to hospital with Covid-19 recently, might have something to say that is in sharp disagreement along with the rising concerns about health statistics across the UK. As we are close to November the 5th, it's these moments that you cannot help but think at times that maybe Guy Fawkes had the right idea after all.

Moving swiftly on, the other great issue about to dawn is of course the COP 26 Conference where thousands of delegates from all over the World have descended on the fair city of Glasgow to discuss the impact of Climate Change and how as a collective of world nations we respond to that challenge. While many others will visit the city to make protest, there are those for whom the responsibility of keeping everyone safe and secure will be for them the most enormous security nightmare.

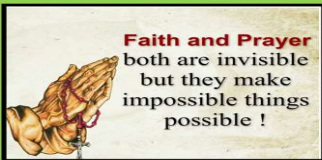
I hope whatever your views are in regard to this that You will take time this week to remember those involved, the world's political leaders from so many nations large and small, rich and poor alike. Pray for the business and huge corporations that this will affect directly and pray that all those involved come to a common mind to address this issue and that they find the means by which they can practically and realistically do so within the required time frames allowing the world to avoid an ecological disaster. Pray for those nations who have taken a hard line remaining in sharp denial of the Climate concerns and pray for those who are the activists and protesters, that they avoid the need for violence and harm. There's a lot to pray for this week.

Best Wishes

Calum D. Macdonald



Announcements



Faith and Prayer
both are invisible
but they make
impossible things
possible !

**Tuesday mornings
from 10am
in the Session
house
The Powerhouse of
Prayer**

Bible Study



*Our next meeting
for Bible Study
will take place on
Tuesday 9th
November in the
Fergusson Hall
at 7.30pm*



Church Flowers

Church flowers this week have been kindly donated by Mr Eric Rahim in fondest memory of his wife Edit.



The Park Church Bulletin Board



When Coming to Church

Please remember to Phone in for Track and Trace purposes To reserve your place please phone Bert or Sandra Dickov on 01413168143 or 07947611412

Each week the Sanctuary is enhanced with fresh flowers and afterwards when Sunday Worship is over, they are delivered to homes where there may have been :-



- A cause for Family Celebration
- A Bereavement
- A situation of illness or long time frailty



The provision of flowers each week across the year is a consequence of kind donations received for the Flower Fund while a team of ladies from the church arrange/deliver the flowers.

Recipients of Church Flowers have been delighted by the thoughts expressed through them and see it as a Blessing If you would like to be involved in any aspect of this worthwhile ministry , please contact Anne Hamilton (07710449941) or Val Richmond (07969846013)



Church Diary

Monday

Craft Club, Eastwood Choral Society
McCarthy Dance School & Chess Club

Tuesday

Prayer Meeting, Mother & Toddlers,
Bible Study, Girl Guides

Wednesday

Mother & Toddlers & Brownies

Thursday

Keep Fit

Friday

McCarthy Dance School

Saturday

Keep Fit

Sunday

Morning Worship



Carnwadric Church

Helping Hands Community Foodbank

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.



**Remembrance
Sunday
Sunday 14th
November 2021**

In preparation for the Commemoration of Remembrance Sunday what began as a small group of church members mushroomed into a significantly larger group of people knitting Poppies that we might create a Cascade of Poppies hanging from the Tower. I was told that in excess of 2000 poppies have been made and given to the church and are currently being sewn into the Fabric Net.

A Big Thank You to all who helped doing this.



**Our Remembrance Day
Retiral Offering this year is
in support of the Soldier's
Sailor's and Airmen's
Families Association.**

A Prayer for Cop 26



*"The Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it" (Psalm 24: 1)
(The Prayer today is adapted from Tear Fund's Cop26 Prayer)*

Let us Pray ...

Gracious God and Father You made and can move mountains, You created people and can touch their hearts and minds and You declared that the world was very good and we believe you can make it be so again as in Your sovereign power the world is already in Your hands and for that we can only give you the Praise and the Glory. As if that were not enough, you have more than demonstrated your great love for this broken world through your Son Jesus who showed us how we ought to live with one another and then gave himself for us all, that we might be restored to You. You have bestowed upon us the precious gift of your Spirit as our constant companion and guide, and you have given us Your Word as something to go to for guidance and reassurance and direction. Yet we confess we have not always sought your Way, we have not always followed your direction and we have neglected Jesus' example.

Inspire us to do better we pray.

As leaders from so many nations great and small, rich and poor gather in Glasgow for the Cop 26 conference, we lift before you the COP climate talks and the future of the planet. We are sorry for the damage that has been done and look to see what can be undone and we come before You seeking that Your Hand be upon these talks and these decisions that we might see again your Grace and Mercy with the miracle of a world restored.

We pray for the world leaders gathering in Glasgow, that they would do what is right and fair. May the common desire to protect the world enable good conversations, positive actions and bring about a unity of purpose. We pray for those joining from countries on the frontline of climate change who are experiencing the worst impacts, having contributed the least. We pray that their voices would carry weight and power, and that you, Oh God, would protect their place at the negotiating table. We remember especially those nations in denial of all this - bring them to their senses we pray. Lord, as the UK serves as host to these important talks may we do so with humility, compassion, and generosity.

Help us all to always to remember You are God and so nothing is impossible or too late for You and so in the face of this climate crisis, we hold on to our Eternal Hope which is found in you alone. Hear the cries of your people, gracious God in Jesus' name we pray... Amen.



Psalm 24: 1 - 10
A psalm Of David.

¹ *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*
² *for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.*

³ *Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?*

⁴ *The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.^[a]*

⁵ *They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Saviour.*

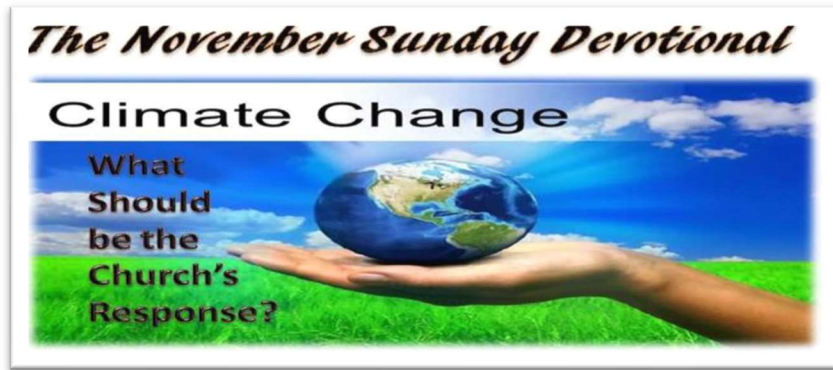
⁶ *Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.^{[b][c]}*

⁷ *Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

⁸ *Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.*

⁹ *Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

¹⁰ *Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.*



Hi Everyone,

I wonder what you make of all that has been going on in the build up to these centrally important talks about the future response to Climate Change. The petty bickering going on between France and the UK over fishing licenses with political figures on both sides having shown a marked petulance, far in excess of any 3 or 4 year old child's tantrums. Elsewhere in the world you have political corruption allegedly in Israel, the Civil War in Syria rolls on quietly in the background because it is old news now, the UK and Iran and are still deadlocked about the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe from prison after 5yrs where the negotiation has utterly stalled and/or failed. The Problems of Afghanistan roll on even after the spectacularly fast retreat of American Forces from the country where chaos now reigns with Islamic fundamentalism unjustly marginalising women, in particular, discouraging them from even being able to read. There is the story of the Chinese with the Uighur People and of course being a major polluter unwilling to be part of this great discussion in Glasgow while in Myanmar, the Rohingya people remain marginalised and persecuted. Interestingly, statistics reveal that the people most persecuted across the world today are in fact Christians. Meanwhile tensions with the Chinese in Taiwan, the Russians over access to the Black Sea and their influence in the Ukraine Civil War continue. Add to all of that the story of Covid and the news of sea water and CO2 levels rising and polar caps melting all as a consequence of Global warming. For me, the satirical Song by the late Christian Rock and Roller Larry Norman somehow sums things up for us.

"What a mess this world is in !

I wonder who began it ?

Don't ask me - I'm only visiting this planet."

What is the Church's Response to all of this? It's a Good question to ask when Nations gather to seek a way in which they can respond to the Climate Crisis.

From a Biblical Perspective, we have to understand that humanity has had a mandate going back to the earliest moments of the Garden of Eden in Gen. 1:26-31 where the Covenant between God and Humanity establishes what some have referred to as "a Divine Mandate to Care for Creation." One Christian Activist has taken the view that **"for those who are claiming to be Christian, part of that discipleship involves a relationship with creation."** And yet so many don't, even though living as a Christian should reflect this. What should the Church's response to Climate Change Be? What should the Christian's response be?

Let me suggest a couple of things in regard to this looking at each one in turn. Firstly, there is a Biblical Imperative for Climate responsibility. Secondly, there is a Moral Imperative to act responsibly to Climate Change while thirdly, there is a Practical Imperative to resolve the issues of Climate Change.

As a Biblical imperative, Christians will hold a world view that is at times in conflict with many who do not hold to a concept of Creation. For the Christian in simple terms, this world we are in is part of a larger scheme of Creation. Many have sought to rationalise Evolutionary Theory to be able to adapt it to a concept of Creation while others have been keen to adopt the model of Creation in opposition to Evolution. Whichever view is preferred, the influence of God's Word remains a central one where we are influenced by the stories and account of things beginning in the Book of Genesis and the books of the bible that will follow. So for example we will read in the opening words of Genesis Chapter 1 that *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."* And so from these opening words of the Old Testament, the first thing we learn about God is that He is the Creator of all things and as we get towards the end of the Chapter In Genesis 1: 26 we read... *"²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,^[a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."* And from this we have an

understanding that while, humanity has been commissioned to be the Chief Steward of life on Earth charged with managing the resources of this world, it is also a reminder that it is to God our Creator to whom we should answer.

By the time we get to verses in the Old Testament like those of Psalm 24 we have a world view, that "the Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it". This great processional Psalm, so familiar in our church circles, which historically for the people of Israel was a song they would sing as they approached the great gates of the City and Temple of Jerusalem usually on pilgrimage for the great festival of the Passover and which is now so enmeshed in Scottish Presbyterian heritage singing these great words again unaccompanied at the annual General Assembly of the Church of Scotland or during a local parish church service as they celebrate Communion. Many Christians today have sought to bypass a sense of climate responsibility, sometimes claiming a biblical warrant to do so. But the Earth is the Lord's and we are its Stewards and Humanity will have to answer to its Creator as to how well or how poorly we all have risen to the challenge.

Our second great imperative is to act morally and responsibly to the issues of Climate change. In simple Terms the principle of 'Let Right Be Done!' is the measure by which we should gauge our response. This principle I think is especially relevant to those with whom the big decisions rest in the political world and in the world of Business and Technological Development. So for example, in Technology terms and the world of Cloning in particular, where Scottish Scientists were leading the field at the time with Dolly the Sheep - they were so busy asking the questions 'Can We?', they never thought to pursue the question, 'Should We?'. The Church of Scotland at the time was one of the few places that you could go to find a moral /ethical approach to the subject. In the story of Ethical practice in business, those companies and businesses involved in Fracking for Oil for example, may be accused of not having thought through the impact of their work environmentally and its cost to the environment because the profit of their shareholders mattered above all else and Politicians who make noises about the need for being more environmentally aware should perhaps be thinking again about the opportunity of opening new oil fields in and around the waters of Scotland and beyond as

there may be mixed signals about environmental Concern . Let right be done is a great and simple principle to measure our ethics across all our lives and that of business practice and political decision making and even technological development.

Finally, there is the Practical Imperative to resolve the Issue of Climate Change. The Hard truth is that unless we look to practically resolving the problems Climate change creates such as, an Ozone layer that is thinning, CO2 levels that are rising and polar caps that are melting, the reality is that life in the future will become and is already becoming extremely difficult in places. These past 19 months where we have seen our own nation and indeed nations across the world come collectively together to address the crisis of Covid-19 to seek a way forward and how within ten months devise and begin to provide suitable vaccines to resolve the Health crisis. It has come at a heavy price with over 5 million people across the world having died from this illness. If only our politicians would stop being petulant children and seek a practical way forward in their political dilemmas. If only business could be more ethical in how they approach things for the benefit of all and not just the few and if only we could divert the enormous Scientific and technical resources away from military development and procurement to more productively resolving the Food Crisis, the Water Shortage and the impact of a changing climate across the world. Therein lies the core challenge to those who attend the COP26 conference.

May God bless them where their attempt to resolve things is genuinely seeking to do the Right thing and for those whose resolve is to pander to those who remain self seeking and self-aggrandising, may the God who made the Heavens and the Earth Judge them for it. In the meantime, we can only wait and see what the outcome will be and do what we can to be faithful as Stewards of God's Creation if not in big ways then in small ways. After all, the Earth is the Lord's and Everything in it.

Have a great week

Calum



*May we, in faith,
Trust You Better as each day rises.
May we in Faith see this world
through your eyes, and have compassion.
May we through your ears,
hear this world's cry and respond.
May we through your hands
touch this world in ways that bring Hope.
And May we see
Our Father in Heaven who loves this world
His Son who gave his life for this world,
And the Holy Spirit who has an abiding, presence
throughout this world,
bless this world
with your Grace, Mercy and Peace,
this day and every Day....*

Amen

