

MAYFIELD SALISBURY PARISH CHURCH
EDINBURGH

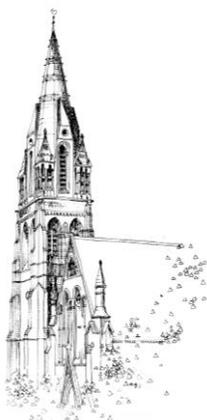
Online Worship Material Available 8.00am Every Sunday

Sunday 5 July 2020

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

LOVE (III)

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lacked any thing.



A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert

AS A DIVERSE PEOPLE, THE CHURCH GATHERS TO WORSHIP ALMIGHTY GOD

Welcome - Revd Helen Alexander

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Good morning Good morning to the members and friends of the congregation of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, and welcome to this worship online for the 4th Sunday after Trinity.

This month we are re-ordering our Service a little to take account of the holiday period which may bring some changes – for children at least – even in the strange days in which we’re living now. Each week we shall hear a Psalm for the day from that great Prayer Book of the Judeo Christian tradition that has been a great source of comfort as well as challenge for millions of people throughout the ages and still is today.

I invite you now to join me in a short period of silence in preparation for worship.

Scripture Sentences

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you....? Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.



Let us pray

Let us not be afraid to ask, to seek; to knock at the door of the Divine for grace, goodness, and every help in time of trouble.

Let us come to the Father, inarticulate though we may be, like children searching for words to say what is in our heart, yet trusting that it is not necessarily our words that are most required in prayer, but trust and some knowledge that we are recognised, welcomed, received, forgiven.

Let us seek not so much what we may think is right for us, but openness of heart to receive help and hope that may come to us in ways that may be ordinary and familiar, or greatly to our surprise.

And acknowledging our rightful concerns about our health and welfare; the state of our minds and our complexity of soul, let us make all our prayers in the knowledge that we are not islands of identity but find our true being in relationship with one another and with God.

So still our minds, almighty God;
Guide our hearts;
Re-clothe us with the grace of hopefulness and calm,
And lead us in the way everlasting; though Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him, grant us the will to serve others in the name of him who was the servant of all; who gave up his life and died for us, and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading

Psalm 145: 8 - 18

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

HYMN 100

O Lord, thou art my God and King

[Click to view](#)

Duke Street

O Lord, thou art my God and King;
thee will I magnify and praise:
I will thee bless, and gladly sing
unto thy holy name always.

Each day I rise I will thee bless,
and praise thy name time without end.
Much to be praised, and great God is;
his greatness none can comprehend.

Race shall thy works praise unto race,
the mighty acts show done by thee.
I will speak of the glorious grace,
and honour of thy majesty;

Thy wondrous works I will record.
By many shall the might be told
of all thy awesome acts, O Lord:
and I thy greatness will unfold.

*Psalm 145 (ii), verses 1-6
The Scottish Psalter, 1929 (alt.)*

WE LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Readings

Genesis 24: 34 - 38, 42 - 49, 58 - 67

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

Romans 7: 15 – 25a

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

St Matthew 11: 25 - 30

[Click to read](#) [Click to view](#)

Readers: *Christine De Luca and Kay McIntosh DCS*

Reflection

Revd Helen Alexander

[Click to view](#)

The other day I happened on a little joke.

Young woman in a car:

'It's not my fault, Officer. I'm a Gemini and Geminis are always in a hurry.'

Policeman with his notebook:

'Bad luck, Madam. I'm a Libra. Here's your ticket!'



For those of you who never sneak a look at your horoscope, the scales of justice are the astrological symbol for Libra.

This doesn't seem a bad place to start in considering today's passage from St Paul's Letter to the Romans that contains the well-known verse, *'the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do'* to quote the King James Authorised Version of the Bible on which many of us older ones were raised.

Of course, Paul wasn't thinking of the Zodiac, but the Jewish Law on which he had been raised along with many of those to whom he was writing. For Paul, the rigorous demands of the Law, even if followed to the letter, could never change anyone sufficiently to lead to human freedom. For him, this freedom lay solely in the activity of the Spirit in Jesus Christ, the exploration of which occupies some of his most beautiful writing in the next chapter of his letter.

But back to Chapter 7 and as the New Revised Standard Version puts it: *'I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.'*

The same NRSV introduces this section as ‘The Inner Conflict’ which is a good way of putting it. For Paul, this conflict is caused by sin, thought of in a personified sort of way, as if a demonic kind of being inhabits a person and severely messes up his or her behaviour. Possibly he had the Genesis’ account of ‘The Fall’ in mind in which sin in the form of a snake inveigled its way into Eve’s consciousness and induced her to pluck the fruit and to share it with Adam.

Paul was a man of his time, and few these days find this personified way of thinking about evil or sin helpful – though some still do, and sometimes adopt strong, even violent measures in an attempt to drive it out.

More helpful to many of us is to see the situation as one that afflicts most if not all of us, quite simply because we’re human. As individuals we don’t always act as if from a single mind. In this conflicted state it can be as if one internal voice says one thing and another something different. This can lead to a kind of paralysis whereby we swither and dither and don’t do anything; or end up doing that which is against our better judgement, sometimes even asking ourselves as we go: *‘Why on earth am I doing this.....whatever possessed me to say that!’*

Assuming this isn’t the most comfortable or helpful way to live, the question is what might be done about it? The Apostle Paul was in no doubt: *‘Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!’*

Then he embarks on to his lyrical writing on the influence and grace of the Holy Spirit. For Paul, the activity of God in Christ through the Spirit is a shorthand way of expressing the way forward.

We may not disagree, but probably want to think things through a bit.

One of the most striking elements of Paul’s story is his dramatic conversion that is recorded more than once in the Book of Acts. You’ll remember that he was bent on routing out and imprisoning members of the church in Damascus, and on the way had a startling experience in which he heard Christ calling to him: *‘Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?’* And in the memorable language of the AV again: *‘It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks!’* As a result, the fervent persecutor became as fervent an apostle. I don’t think it’s too much to suppose that before his dramatic experience on the Damascus road, Paul was a conflicted, divided self, partly strongly attracted to the very faith he was

committed to stamping out. It won't be the first or the last time that someone moves heaven and earth to deny the very thing they deeply hold to be true.

Throughout the ages, people have indeed undergone dramatic experiences of conversion to faith, finding peace, solace and often great and single-minded commitment as a result.

But this is not the same for us all. Dealing with our inner conflicts can be a life's work, even when the church has long played a large part in that life. The Christian faith is not of the 'one-size fits all' variety.

Some of us may require ongoing help from enlightened psychiatry, psychotherapy or counselling, the insights of which can be immeasurably helpful in the ongoing struggle for 'integration', to use a modern word to describe the work of facing and understanding internal conflict. The flourishing 'therapy movement' can be criticised as an unhealthy encouragement to self-absorption. On the contrary however, when provided by professionally competent, insightful practitioners who truly seek the welfare of the people in their care this work can produce great benefit for those who are prepared to risk the hard and often painful work required for growth and change.

None of this renders a life of church-going and the practice of prayer and devotion redundant, of course. Quite the reverse: to see one's life, with its struggles as well as its joys in the light of the overarching reality of that which we call God is the life-blood of faith, calling us all to reach towards a unity of meaning and purpose for which most human beings long. This is the endeavour for which the church of Jesus Christ stands.



And so we come to more well-known Biblical words that we've already heard today, this time from St Matthew's Jesus:

‘Come to me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.’

The divine Physician of the Soul has many healing hands on earth.

RESPONSE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD WITHIN

Sonata for two cellos: Allegro non troppo [Click to view](#)

Jean-Pierre Guignon (1702-1774)

Kate Pearson, organ, James Pearson, cello

Thanksgiving and Intercession – Revd Helen Alexander

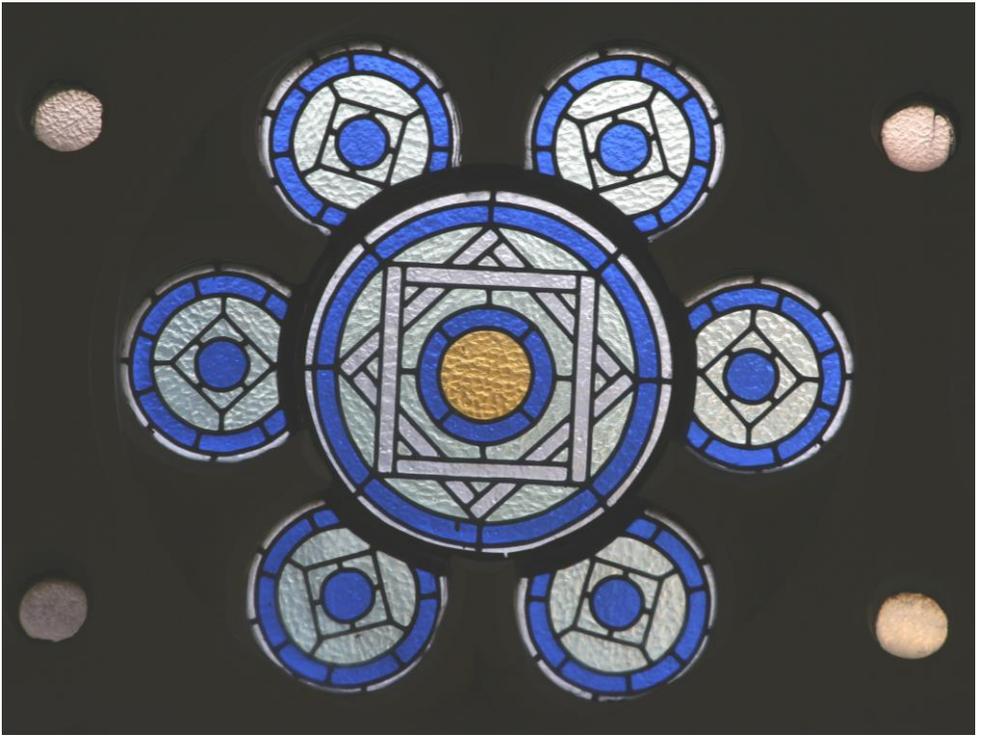
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We think of people in this congregation, and those of other churches who may be scattered throughout this country and beyond, calling to mind those we know who may be sad and lonely, frightened, ill, anguished in spirit. We seek grace for them and timely help through the comfort of friends and family, wise counsel and skilled care, and renewed faith. And in silence now, we name those who are in our minds and hearts.....

We think of people everywhere: those of any age who are facing an uncertain future; children whose lives may be affected by current circumstances in ways we may be only dimly beginning to comprehend; people who are out of work or worrying that they may become so; those who are nearing the end of their lives and needing particular consideration and protection in these days.

We think of grave concerns in our own country and abroad: the stress and strain of working out next steps in the recovery of welfare and economy; the burgeoning effects of the coronavirus in Asia, the Americas and other lands; the immensity of the pressures on the people of Hong Kong; the revolutionary political change anticipated in Russia; and the ongoing battle with the poverty and disease, famine and displacement that relentlessly stalks the earth.

We pray for all who suffer and those who do all they can to help; for governments and policymakers; for all those dedicated to life and health, as well as all whose lives are consumed by self-aggrandisement and hate and who find excitement in terror and destruction.



And still we offer gratitude for all evidence of good; for faith enough for the present and hope for the future; for signs of life within and around us; for quiet good humour and the blessed tonic of laughter and release; for sympathy and understanding; for grace; for the promise of the enduring love of God.

And into that love we commit all whom we remember and the millions upon millions we can never know, giving thanks for the great Communion of Saints, past, present and to come; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN 167
Cwm Rhondda

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

[Click to view](#)

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till my want is o'er.
feed me till my want is o'er.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside!
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side!
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee.
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)
translated Peter Williams (1727-1796)

BENEDICTION

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Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you

And the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all.

HYMN 825 Amen

[Click to view](#)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

INTIMATIONS

1. **MEMORIES OF MAYFIELD** by Sheriff Nigel Thomson C.B.E. (1926-2011)
Nigel Thomson's fascinating booklet of recollections and photographs of earlier times at (*the then*) Mayfield Church can be downloaded and read in its entirety here: [Memories of Mayfield](#).

2. **YOUTH UPDATE**

Netflix Watch Party: Sunday 5 July at 7pm we will be watching a film together with 'Netflix Party.' We will meet on Zoom first. Parents will be emailed with more details on Sunday. All ages are welcome with parents' permission. Get in touch with Hillary if you have any questions.

Virtual Youth Programming: The *virtual* youth schedule for the month of July can be accessed on the church website under the 'Young People' tab. All youth programming will be held over Zoom. New virtual youth consent forms must be sent to Hillary before attending a session. For log-in access to the Zoom sessions, or to get a copy of the consent forms, please contact Hillary!

3. **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:** Psalm 65, Genesis 25: 19 – 34, Romans 8: 1 – 11 and St Matthew 13: 1 – 9
4. **REMEMBERING SREBRENICA** Certain philosophical approaches assume uninterrupted growth and progress for humanity - whether in terms of economics or morality. And it is possible to look at the world and see evidence of things being better than once they were. Thirty years ago, one-third of the world's population lived in extreme poverty - living on less than \$1.90 a day. Most recent figures indicate that that figure is now nearer to 10% of the world's population.

We can't yet claim to have made poverty history, but progress has undoubtedly been made. Let us rejoice in that whilst committing ourselves to work for further progress. But in terms of how we humans get on with one another, it's hard to argue that we've made much progress at all. Do we forget so quickly? Are we so inept when it comes to remembering to remember - and to learn?

Twenty-five years ago the world watched in horror at what unfolded across the Balkans generally and, particularly, at Srebrenica. Those who thought that such unthinkable extermination only happened

elsewhere, or belonged in the history books, were shocked to see such scenes taking place in 'civilised' Europe.

It was never more important than it is now that we remember what happened - in a historical sense and because it is so very easy to allow ourselves to slip into the same dark places. Even now, there are divisive voices in our communities, doing their best to emphasise difference and to exploit what's going on in the world for their own ends. These voices must not prevail - which will require all people of goodwill to do more than be idle bystanders.

In remembering Srebrenica, with deep shame and sadness, let us apply ourselves to working for reconciliations, understanding and peace in our world today. www.srebrenica.scot

Yours in Christ,

Rt Revd Dr W Martin Fair

Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

A Prayer for Srebrenica

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
Hear us as we pray and remember the people of Srebrenica,
We pray for those, whose memories are scarred with pain,
For those whose hearts are broken
For lives that were torn apart.

Hold us, and all those we remember in your embrace,
Never letting us forget the sins of humanity.

Bring us close to all;
Mothers and children,
Fathers and sons,
Sisters and brothers of those left behind
And heal their pain and sorrow.

Teach us never to forget the lessons of the past,
And in going forward, create a world of equity;
Not to be divided by hatred and discrimination
But united in courage, love and empathy

Help us Lord to learn to live for a world
Where differences are valued and respected
Where fear and distrust will never consume us.
We ask that those suffering would know your peace
and their lives might be restored through your grace. AMEN.

5. **ONLINE OFFERING / DONATION** The Church is very grateful to all those who give by standing order enabling us to maintain a large portion of our income through these difficult times. We now offer the ability to contribute to our work electronically through the ‘give.net’ facility which appears on the home page of the Church’s website. This provides the possibility of adding Gift Aid to donations. There is also a direct link to the new system which is: <https://www.give.net/20311853>

With best wishes, Hugh Somerville, Free Will Offerings Treasurer.

6. **PASTORAL CARE** Many thanks to all of you who have been in the various phone trees over the past few months. They have been so important and reassuring for so many people.

For those of you making the masks, scrubs and bags. The nursing home have asked me to thank you all for your generosity of time and talents. They now have enough, but are so grateful for your help and response when they were so desperately needing it. *Kay*

Forthcoming Deadlines

Order of service for next week: Thursday at 6.00pm.

Next Grapevine: **Friday 31 July at 6.00pm.**

Please send submissions to the Church Manager, William Mearns.

Phone: 0780 801 1234 or email: churchmanager@googlemail.com

Books for the Journey

My Sour-Sweet Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul by Mark Oakley.

Luminaries: Twenty lives that illuminate the Christian Way by Rowan Williams.

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