



PENTECOST 3 - SUNDAY 21 JUNE 2020 - EVERYONE HAS VALUE

**CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 67** 1. May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us 2. so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. 3. May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you.

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Heavenly Father, teacher of life's lessons to we who are but life's students, gather us to sit at your feet and learn from you today. You are the one who holds the words of eternal life, the one who feeds and heals, forgives and loves, even when we do and say unlovable things. We come to worship you with our songs and words and prayers. May what we offer you be uplifting to you who observes our acts of worship and uplifting to us as we seek your grace and mercy and peace. When we are tempted to think we know more than we do, have mercy upon us. When we are tempted to live in anxiety and fear, remind us to not be afraid. The world of nature, of which we are part of course, has so much to teach us. Open our eyes to the wonder of your world. With eyes closed in prayer, open our imaginations also to the mystery of the spiritual realm that there, guided by your Spirit, we may learn to see as you see. So we offer ourselves anew today with open hearts and open minds, receptive to all you can reveal to us. We pray that our time together will be a time of growth and inspiration; a time of blessing and finding and as you taught the disciples to say....Our Father... Amen



*Sunday 21 June - "Songs of Praise"*

A selection of members favourite hymns/songs,



**REFLECTION** - from "Spill the Beans"

My last reflection, I finished with how a reporter had not heard the BIRDSONG due so much noise, traffic etc. But during lockdown he was able to hear them. Again today's lectionary focuses on Birds.

Many years ago while visiting my Grandfather in Dundee, the first thing when I arrived at his house, I'd run straight to the window, jump up on the "bunker", the place where the coal was stored, to look out of the window, watching for the **White Blackbird**, yes it was **white** with a small black spot on it's wing. This was a very unusual sighting but it did survive for a number of years. Photo to the left is of this year's Blackbird fledglings, nesting in an adjacent garden.



The '**Spill the Beans**' author saw a leucitic sparrow while walking a dog (**leucism is the partial absence of pigmentation in an animal which results in white or paler colouration**).

Each January the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK organises a Birdwatch. They say, "an hour with the birds is a wonderful opportunity to sit back, relax and spend time with nature. The idea is that people are invited to count the number of birds landing in their garden or patch of public garden in 1 hour. The serious point is of course a study of bird numbers/variety of species and trends with the associated questions of factors such as climate change affecting bird numbers and type!

Spend some time out in your garden or out in the open this week and take notice of the birds and wildlife you see around you. Listen for the noise of nature as it mingles with the voices of people, the the return of sounds of transport and commerce. Recognise our world for what it is: a mix of geography, wildlife, humanity, hustle and bustle, and stillness.

Consider that God is present in the mix of it all. Consider our place in the mix of it.

**Consider what God seeks from us.**

Many sparrows, **one white sparrow stood out in a flock**. You cannot miss it. This leucitic bird, so vulnerable on the face of predation. Many people, one odd person stood out in a crowd. You cannot miss it. This marginalised individual so vulnerable in the face of persecution.

**The sparrow and the person at the bottom of the "pecking order".**

They are unexpected messengers from God showing the other side of Jesus, the one we don't want to know. Jesus Said "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." So brutally straightforward bringing division between 'Them' and 'Us', in how we see another in low degree and of little worth.

**Hymn / Song Favourites**

1. **All are Welcome**
2. **Servant King**
3. **Make me a Channel**
4. **Be Thou my Vision**
5. **My Lighthouse**
6. **Do Not Be Afraid**
7. **Here I am Lord**
8. **To God be the Glory**



28 June - Communion -  
Remember to have your Bread and a Drink ready to  
celebrate.

**Matthew 10:24-39 (GNT)**

**24** "No pupil is greater than his teacher; no slave is greater than his master. **25** So a pupil should be satisfied to become like his teacher, and a slave like his master. If the head of the family is called Beelzebul, the members of the family will be called even worse names!

**Whom to Fear**

**26** "So do not be afraid of people. Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. **27** What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops. **28** Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. **29** For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. **30** As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. **31** So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!

**Confessing and Rejecting Christ**

**32** "Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven. **33** But those who reject me publicly, I will reject before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

**34** "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; **36** your worst enemies will be the members of your own family.

**37** "Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples.

**38** Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. **39** Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.

*"So Do not be afraid of People."  
Matthew 10:26*

Another favourite

Rev Julia Wiley - video - [By Cool Siloam's Shady Hill](#)

**Yet such insignificant creatures have their place in the loving and attentive care of God.**

It's a hard passage to get your head around. It poses lots of images of conflict, as though there was a simple answer every time. Could Jesus be suggesting to his followers, is that there are hard choices to be made every day in the way we live our lives and choose to follow Jesus. Like Jesus, we hope to take on board the decisions we need to make, in the knowledge that God himself seeks to support us in the decisions we make. Even if those decisions are wrong, He hopes that we can learn from them.

These can be really hard choices and sometimes these choices lead to conflict with our family, our friends and even our fellow Christians who might see life differently.

It seems that way, but there are also words of encouragement here reminding us that we are valuable in the sight of God, and that he knows everything there is to know about us, even the number of hairs there are on our heads.

Jesus is talking plainly, and he does not hold back telling his followers the challenges that lie ahead, yet he assures them and us that whatever we face he is with us and is looking out for us in these hard times and we should never lose sight.

Jesus is the one who brings encouragement and hope, and that he simply invites us to be his messengers and his hands to carry out his work to Glorify God.

**BLESSING** - The Blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and evermore. Amen

**Prayers for Others and Ourselves**

Lord, as we want for very little materially in our western world, others are in great need worldwide. Though the sparrow may not fall without your knowledge, many of our brothers and sisters fall unnoticed through all too many ordinary, everyday needs.

We take our daily needs for granted, yet lack of food or lack of water brings too many to their untimely end.

We take our homes for granted, yet lack of home or lack of security brings death by the thousand.

Oh Lord, how long must it be so that good people, children, parents, grandparents, must tolerate and endure such an unfair world.

How long will it go on that billions go without the basics, whilst billionaires increase their wealth year on year.

Hear our cries, oh Lord, for justice.

Hear our cries, oh Lord, for fairness.

Hear our cries, oh Lord, for the forgotten people of our modern world, your children, members of our human family.

And amongst us too, God, there is pain and plight.

We think of our community where food banks are in use, or where homes are threatened by financial constraint.

We think of the strain upon our NHS or those who feel isolated and alone.

We think of those who have lost loved ones to death, and feel lost in their grief now themselves.

For your Church, worldwide and here in our communities we pray.

In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

In a moment of Silence we remember those whom we know, for our family and friends.

**Yes, Lord, we are taught that all are worthy in your sight.** May it be that all will be worthy in the sight of the powerful and in our sight too.

In Jesus name we pray - Amen.

**Wash our hands:**

Keep your social distancing.

Remember one another in prayer

Give a friend / neighbour a telephone call