

St Nicholas Church, Sighthill

7th March 2021

This Sunday is the third Sunday in Lent, where some will be approaching the halfway point in their 40-day journey of abstinence or acquisition, depending on whether you see Lent as a time to give something up or take something on.

We are also into March; might we begin to say that Winter is behind us? Certainly, the signs of Spring are all around us and we delight in that. But here's the thing, seasons come and go, you know, everything changes but God endures and is faithful through every season of life and the word of the Lord is forever. So, with these things in mind we gather to worship from all across the country and beyond ... Let's worship, the Lord our God.

The Right Reverend Dr Martin Fair, Moderator of the General Assembly

Song: Come now is the time to worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USQn4IUms2>

Come,
just as you are, to worship.
Come,
just as you are, before your God.
Come.

Leader: Through the creation of the universe

All: You love us, Lord

Leader: Through guidance, call and commandment

All: You love us, Lord

Leader: Through the gift of Your son, Jesus

All: You love us, Lord

Leader: Through our worship and our response to
Your word

All: We love You, Lord.

Leader: Father God, we adore you for your patience
with your wayward children; for bearing with us
when our understanding is skewed and our
behaviour wrong.

Jesus, we adore you for being with us always,
your humanity entwined with ours; for showing
us the way in your life and through the Word.

Holy Spirit, we adore you for working through us
despite our failings; for living in us and enabling
us with a strength greater than our own.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are wisdom in
our world; you flow through creation and
consciousness.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Bible Reading: John 2: 13-22

It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; and he ordered those who sold the pigeons, "Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire." The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question, "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again." "Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!" But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. So, when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said.

All age talk by Dorothy Urquhart

Fullarton Parish Church, Irvine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBP afPkIOs>

Have you ever been really really angry? So angry that you shouted. So angry that you threw things around, oh dear. I know I have. I think you probably have too, but you might be very surprised to hear that Jesus has been very angry. Angry enough to shout and angry enough to throw things around. Hmmm that's interesting.

Let's find out a bit more about that because the Bible says that Jesus never did anything wrong, but I can assure you he got angry and he threw things. Let me show you around my model first. This is a wee bit like

Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. So down in this level here we've got the marketplace where people are selling things. We've got a boy here who's got some geese and a lady with vegetables and here, somebody with chickens and out in the fields with got rabbits and horses and ducks on the pond and when people were going to worship God at the temple they would go up these steps here and come to this part which is the court of the gentiles or this is the part for people who were not Jews and they could come into this bit and come close to the temple so that they could pray to God there.

Oh, but actually this looks more like a marketplace than down there because over here we've got a man selling a cow and how this worked was in the olden days at this time, if you wanted to come to God and say sorry for your sins the temple. If you didn't have so much money you could buy a lamb and bring the lamb to God at the temple. If you couldn't afford a lamb, you could buy a dove or a pigeon and give that to God at the temple.

If you still didn't have enough money for a dove, you could still change your money over here for special temple money, but I'm sorry to tell you that the people at the money changing part, they weren't being honest they were taking more money from themselves and cheating the people that were coming, but you couldn't come into the temple, the Jewish people had to have something with them before they could come in. If they did come in the men would be on one side and the ladies would be on the other side and this part is the special holiest place where only the priests could come. So, Jews only in this part and people who are not Jews praying out here.

So let me tell you what happened when Jesus and his friends came to the temple one day and I think they looked around the market and thought hmmm, very quiet down here and then Jesus came up the steps and stopped and looked around. What is going on? This should be a part where people are praying and it's not and do you know he got a whip in his hand, out of rope and he started cracking the whip, crack, crack, and he pulled on the fence and the cow got out moo moo and started down the stairs running through all the people and folk chasing and then he went over to the lambs and he said this is not right let the lambs out Bah Bah Bah. They're running all over the place and people are trying to catch them he said to the people at the birds, let these birds go. This is ridiculous, and then he went over to the money and he did this shhh shhh. He picked up the table and tipped it right over and the man behind it would been so angry, wow what a drama.

Jesus is going completely scrip to in the marketplace. it's not the marketplace. It should be the gentiles court for prayer. What was that all about? Come over here with me and we'll see if we can understand it. I want to know why did Jesus get a whip and crack a whip and chase all the animal out? I want to know why did Jesus throw all the money on the floor and tip the table over?

Why did he do that? and I think it's because he cared about other people. Jesus wasn't getting angry for himself he was getting angry because the other people were being stopped from coming to God. The other people weren't being allowed to pray to God and the other people were being cheated. what about us? Do we

get angry? Do we care enough to get angry when other people are being cheated? Do we care enough to get angry and do something when other people are being spoken about horribly online? Do we care if someone's being bullied or left out and do we make a fuss and change it?

I think that's something that we could learn from Jesus. Don't get angry when you don't get your own way. Get angry because you care about other people. Here's my last wee thought for older children and adults. I love this picture of Jesus who was the sacrificial lamb who offered himself to take away our sins, chasing away the other little lambs because they're not needed anymore. Jesus gave his own life so that we could come to God because he cares. Thank you, Jesus.

Poem 1 - 'Cleansing The Temple' by Margaret Cagle

Jesus went into the temple
And drove the money changers out.
He overthrew their money tables,
And the money scattered all about.

Jesus was cleansing the temple
Of corruption that was there.
They had made it a den of thieves
Instead of a house of prayer.

Christian, how about your temple?
Do you let corruption enter in?
The Bible says our body is a temple,
For the Holy Spirit dwells within.

Let us keep our temple clean.
There dwells the Spirit of God.
If we let corruption have control,
We can face the chastening rod.

Poem 2 - 'One borrowed Poem'

By Elizabeth

Since I started this journey,
I have been borrowing
Nothing I have do I own
I got life from God
Just a few metres down the street,
This young lady gave me a smile
Another young man, gave me a hug

Then another stranger gave me a school
All I needed was provided
Love was borrowed
Joy was borrowed

Happiness was borrowed
Money was borrowed
All I have, I was given
I worked for nothing
I deserved nothing

Even now,
Looking back to where I have come
from I am lending
So my heart is full enough after
He shared His love

I am lending love
I am lending joy
I am lending money
I am lending hope
That which I have, I give unto you

I have Jesus Christ
I have Power
I have Faith
I have Hope
I have Joy
I have this poem
Which I was given

We pray for all who are mourning loss this
day. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Although it may not be hitting our bank balance,
people are being robbed in every corner of this
planet. Land and livelihood - snatched by corrupt
governments. Crippling interest rates from payday
loans and credit cards are causing vulnerable
people to lose their homes and possessions, despite
some seeing this as the only way to put food on the
table or heat and light their home. And they are part
of our community too. For we all belong to You,
God. We pray for all who are caught in the spiral of
debt. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

God of love, open our eyes and ears to these
situations. Inspire and guide us to play our part in
bringing about change – standing against injustice;
speaking up and stepping up. Inspire and guide
those with the power to make a difference - to act,
to intervene, to save lives, to rebuild and to restore.
Hear us, we pray in the name of Jesus, Amen

Prayers

Lord God, our ancestors turned the Temple
into a marketplace; where are the
marketplaces in our lives, O Lord? We confess
that we are often driven by the need to
possess. In our greed, we plunder the earth of
resources and fail to share the good things you
have provided for our needs.

We are obsessed with the work of human
hands, making idols of our houses – and
yours. Forgive us, and help us to see that your
Church is eternally being built – in us.

We pray for the institutions by which we
organise our society: for churches and other
places of worship; for educational
establishments; for places of healing, law and
order, commerce and recreation.

**May they serve the greater good,
and adapt to the changing needs of our
world.**

We pray for those institutions by which we
regulate global relations: for our civic leaders;
for bodies that regulate trade, diplomacy and
the balance of peace; for environmental,
development and welfare organisations.


**May they serve the greater good,
and adapt to the changing needs of our
world.**

we pray for those institutions we have in
our lives: for our friends, families and
colleagues; for our local communities; for
the church communities to which we
belong.

**May they serve the greater good,
and adapt to the changing needs of our
world.**

Closing Hymn: The Church's one foundation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rIS166ppoE>



The church's one foundation
is Jesus-Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:

Final blessings

Trusting that we are
cared for and not
controlled loved and not
law-shackled blessed and
not bound let us go in
peace to love and serve
the Lord. And may the
blessing of God Almighty
Father, Son and Holy
Spirit be with you, those
who you love and those
you struggle to love
now and forever
Amen

