

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnus.org

Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation



Minister: Rev Fraser Macnaughton Tel: 873312

FMacnaughton@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Minister: Rev. June Freeth

Tel: 721449

JFreeth@churchofscotland.org.uk

Welcome to St Magnus Cathedral this morning. It was founded in 1137 by St Rognvald, in honour of Magnus, his uncle. The Cathedral belongs to the people of Orkney and its doors are open to all. If you are a visitor, we hope this order of service will help you feel part of our worship together.

SUNDAY 14th June

You can find our Sunday worship here.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMagnusCathedralCongregation/>

or on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/9pdzL3v9cCk>

Candle meditation

Sacred space, holding all silence;
silence, holding the whole word of God;
word of God, holding all truth for the world;
truth for the world, holding every hope of life;
hope of living, holding every grace of God;
the grace of God, holding every moment of heaven;
moments of heaven, held in sacred space;
sacred space, holding all silence;
in this silence, God, we meet. Amen.

Reading Helen Killeen
I CORINTHANS 12; 4-11

Just as each of us has one body with many members—and these members don't have the same function— so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your gift for teaching. 8 If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully. Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ.

For the truth made known in texts for the wisdom found
on different paths for the hope that leads us on
All; We give thanks.

Reflection

As we reflected last week the philosophy of Ubuntu derives from the meaning "the quality of being human. – a person is a person through other people". This African proverb reveals that we are first and foremost social beings, that, if you will, no man/woman is an island. Ubuntu is, a deeply Christian

lens that calls on us to mirror our humanity for each other.

Ubuntu can be seen and felt in the spirit of willing participation, unquestioning cooperation, warmth, openness, and personal dignity. This is as much a lens through which we can see the Body of Christ, that Paul tried to illustrate in his letter to the early church in Corinth. Practising being the body of Christ can be achieved even in a world where one government (Philippines) placed the following advertisement in Fortune magazine: "To attract companies like yours ... we have felled mountains, razed jungles, filled swamps, moved rivers, relocated towns . . . all to make it easier for you and your business to do business here."

A world where worldwide forests and wildlife are being exterminated to make room for businesses, as well as for 1.3 billion cattle, 1.8 billion sheep and 17.2 billion chickens
A world where 40 percent of the world's population lives in poverty and suffers from malnutrition, while people spend billions per year on losing weight,.

A world where, Michael Jordan earned \$20 million to promote Nike shoes – that's more money in endorsements than the entire annual payroll of all the Indonesian factories that make the shoes.

"What is this world coming to?" is a question on everyone's lips. It is a question unworthy of the church.

Will the Body of Christ direct the minds and hearts of the people of this new world to the truth?

Or is that word "Christian" now so greasy from everyone fingering it that it has become slippery and slimy until one hesitates to pick it up. Has it become so tainted by the prosperity gospel that it bears no resemblance to the Way of Jesus.

The Ministry of the Body of Christ in a postmodern, pluralistic world must bring together the opposites; it must embrace and bridge a world that is homeless and well-housed, a world that is both dying and healthy, a world that is both fiction and fact, a world that is obese and anorexic at the same time.

There is the lovely story of a journalist who was assigned the Lebanon bureau. Walking through the bombed-out streets of Beirut one day, he heard some beautiful music coming from a doorway. He wandered over to where the music was being played and there saw a lad playing a flute. The music was beautiful, but the flute was the weirdest looking instrument he had ever

seen. He got as close as he could properly get when the lad stopped playing, smiled and handed him the instrument. It was not until he picked up the flute that the journalist understood. For what this young Lebanese boy had done was to find, in some field, a discarded rifle, re-bore holes in the barrel of that rifle and transform a gun into a flute.

When the Body of Christ takes up the practices embodied by Ubuntu, we can be like that Lebanese boy in transforming destructive weapons into peaceful instruments. When the church builds bridges that bring the ends together, it makes music. Which will it be? What will the future hold? Instruments of destruction or instruments of healing? Bows or Harps? Guns or Flutes?

When we act upon deeply feeling a sense of being connected to others by our common humanity, when we truly regard self and other as one, when we cherish human dignity, all of our relationships and the level of our behaviours and actions are raised to a higher plane. When we understand and practice Ubuntu, living out the gospel values, we will realize that each has vital role to play, which must be held in balance, no one dominating the other. We must "Break the walls down. Build the body up. Bring the people together."

prayer

We tune our hearts and minds the needs of other people, and we pray that our small but sincere concern may unite with the immense love of the Body of Christ and bring blessing to those for whom we pray.

We call to mind those who are feeling just fine. May they enjoy this moment as a time when they can pour energy into this gift economy we sustain together, holding others through their lows, not forcing them to feel more fine than they are, trusting that there will be energy in the pool for them when they are feeling far less than fine.

Those who are losing hope.

May they find solace in the simple fact that uncertainty is not the opposite of hope, but rather a natural and necessary aspect of hope that keeps us on our toes and off our high horses, and unshakable surety is never required in order for

us to wake up, get out of bed, get ready, and seek wonder,
even in a world that often feels far from wonderful.

Those who are finding it difficult to focus.
May they take a moment to make a list of their current tasks.
["current" meaning immediate, not days or weeks from now] in
order of priority, not so they get all of them done today, and
not even so they get any of them done today, but simply
because making a map of the landscape in front of them not
only might make the terrain a tad less treacherous, but might
even make the trail a tad more inviting.

How long will the darkness prevail? How long will evil
overcome good? How long will injustice triumph? How long will
creation be plundered?
Until we rise up and join the Spirit in bringing light, in
calling out evil, in rolling out justice,
in caring for the earth, joining hands with the God of all
creation to make all things new,
to fulfil the promise of peace on earth and hope for the
world: a new song for all creation -
for singing as we join as the Body of Christ in acts of love.

Blessing

The Spirit sends us out to speak the word to a waiting world
and share those words with all who hear.

May you stay safe in the Way of Christ, and may you be blessed
by his Spirit this day and always.