

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 16th May

You can find our Sunday worship here.

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

or on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/R2ao4DJc6F0>

Join our Wednesday ZOOM meditation by signing up here.

stmagnuszoom@gmail.com

Welcome

We come together this morning, seeking a reality beyond our narrow selves; that binds us in compassion, love, and understanding to other human beings, and to the interdependent web of all living things.

May our hearts and minds be opened this hour, to the power and the insight that weaves together the scattered threads of our experience, and help us remember the Wholeness of which we are part.

Opening meditation

We believe in a light that smothers darkness. It tears through every shadow in our world, and leaves a clarity brighter than the sun,
and we name that light: God!

We believe in a love that crushes hatred, and leaves a space for forgiveness, to rebuild, redesign, and re-create our world,
and we name that love: God!

We believe in a truth that rips through injustice, revealing a different vision for our world: of freedom, fairness, and future,
and we name that truth: God!

We believe in a hope that rattles oppressors, all shaping the intent of the Creator for a people destined for love, and we name that hope: God!

We believe in a time towards which all history travels, where all our lives will be held, and bound into eternity, and we name that time: God!

Reading Luke 6 40-49 Rosemary Moon

Jesus said 'The student is not above the teacher. But all students will, once they are fully trained, be on a par with their teacher. "How can you look at the splinter in another's eye, yet miss the plank in your own? How can you say to another, 'Let me remove the splinter from your eye,' but fail to see the board lodged in your own? Hypocrite, remove the board from your own eye first; then you'll see clearly enough to remove the splinter from the eye of another. "A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit any more than a bad tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield. Figs are not taken from thorn bushes, or grapes picked from briars. Good people produce goodness from the good they've stored up in their hearts; evil people produce evil from the evil stored up in their hearts. People speak from the fullness of their hearts. "Why do you call out, 'Rabbi, Rabbi,' but don't put into practice what I teach you? Those who come to me and hear my words and put them into practice—I'll show you who they're like: they are like the person who, in building a

house, dug deeply and laid the foundation on a rock. When a flood arose, the torrent rushed against the house, but failed to shake it because of its solid foundation. On the other hand, anyone who has heard my words, but has not put them into practice, is like the person who built a house on sand, without any foundation. When the torrent rushed upon it, the house immediately collapsed and was completely destroyed.”

**Until we can see ourselves in the words we read
and the stories we hear, it is easy
to remark on the rest of the world. May the light of these words fall
strong
upon each of us, that we can find the truth they reveal
in our own hearts this day**

Reflection

Into just one discourse, distilled in Luke’s gospel as the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus managed to pack the core of his ethical teaching. Along with the more well-known Sermon on the Mount, his words challenged the world of first century Judaism, provided a moral compass for early Christianity, and, over the past two millennia, have left a legacy, in the form of ethical expectations that guide a substantial proportion of the global population. The Sermon on the Plain promotes a way of life that: embodies the love of Jesus and touches people with it; knows the peace of Christ and helps others to find it; it is a speech that touches the soul and changes lives in the process.

For the avoidance of doubt being a Christian has nothing to do with becoming a bigoted religious fanatic, even though some more extreme people might give that impression. At the same time, being a Christian does not mean being an anaemic chameleon who fits in with whatever way the cultural wind blows. Being a Christian means to be deeply connected to the way of Christ while at the same time being fully human and participating in all the joys and challenges that life brings relationally and socially.

To be immersed in the way of Christ does not draw us away from engaging in all of life. The Christian, in engaging the neighbour and the work colleague should not bring an air of superiority or a spirit of judgmentalism. Instead, we are challenged to bring understanding, compassion and a deep desire to know the other person and to be a blessing as others walk on the way with us.

The reason for this open and generous attitude, big hearted and open handed, towards others is because the Christian lives in the light of grace, love, acceptance and generosity.

To walk on the way of Christ is not some tiresome religious routine. While church may sometimes be like that, Christ's way is never like that! The Spirit is the one who enters our lives, surprises us with forgiveness and grace, empowers us and sends us dancing into the world.

On the way of Christ, we may enter the world with wonder and look all around us for the signs of creativity, goodness and care we can stoop to admire the colours of the daylilies. Ponder the starry heavens. Rock a sleeping baby, admire a piece of art, be pensive with a reflective piece of music. Have raucous laughter with friends. Be amazed at the skill of an athlete and admire the creativity of a colleague.

Having embarked upon the way of Christ by faith, we turn our gaze again and again to discover the heart of God not only in the place of meditation and prayer, but also in rhythms, joys and ordinariness of our daily lives and of our world.

Thus we go into the world to find. We are the gazers not into a crystal ball looking for the magical answers of the future, nor as those who amble along thinking we have no responsibility because it is all God's plan, but as those who look for the signs of love and light even when so much of our world seems dark.

We should see every person on the journey of life as made in the image of God, as those wonderful words at the beginning of Genesis remind us. Therefore, thought of as people of dignity and equality, irrespective of race, gender, education, training and temperament.

Every person bears the hidden mark of Christ. In everyone we may see the hidden Christ. For all are on the way of life which is the way of Christ. Our awareness of that can result in an aching longing for others that they may acknowledge the light that is already shining upon them.... and from them.

A longing for them to eat at the table set out so bountifully. Receive the gift so gently and freely offered. Drink at the fountain flowing with the exuberance of life. Welcome the renewing power of the Spirit.

And so we travel on the way of Christ and go into the world with eyes full of wonder and hearts full of longing. Everywhere we see the signs of hope and in every young or haggard face we see the contours of the hidden Christ about to burst forth into fullness of life.

Prayer

God's people say: we will make known the name of Love,
in the talks of the politicians, in the bargaining of the market place,
in the business of the church where that name is often neglected.

God's people say: we will make known the name Healing,
in the silence of the abused, in the loneliness of the uncomfortable,
in the disunity of the church where that name gets only lip-service.

God's people say: we will make known the name of Peace,
in the blessing of war-craft, in the reasoning of the terrorist,
in the twisting of religious power where that name is misused.

Lord of life , we come to you. Lord of all, our Saviour be,
Come to bless and to heal with the light of your love.

Blessing

Let us go
in the power of Christ
to find all sorts of surprising ways to serve

God and our neighbour, that all may know Christ
the Lord of all.

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