

ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL
Sunday 13th June
Morning Service 11.15am

CONDUCTED UNDER COVID RESTRICTIONS

Welcome to Worship

Good morning..
Whether you come from north or south,
east or west, whether you live here or are a visitor,
are here for the first time, or are here regularly..
you are welcome to our worship.
Your presence enriches us in this time of celebration
together.

Gathering Music

Lighting of the Christ candle

The candle is lit

All say;

**We light this Christ candle, a living symbol of the one Life
in which we all live and move and have our being.**

Gathering meditation and a time of Silence

We are each a child of the Universe, no less than the moon and
the stars; we have a right to be here. And whether or not it
is clear to us, no doubt the Universe is unfolding as it
should.

Trust is part of that core of relating which makes things
possible. Without trust, there is no intimacy; without trust,
there is no growth; without trust, individuals, relationships,
corporations, churches and indeed the world would not function
or thrive.

May we be reminded of our highest aspirations. May we bring
our gifts of love, trust and service to all of humanity. May
we know once again that we are not isolated beings. We are
connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe. We are
connected to this community, to each other and to lovers of
life everywhere. We trust ourselves and those with whom we
relate; we are intimately united.

Let us again listen to the silence of this sacred space.
A space made ready for us by willing hands.
May we recognise in our life the presence, power and light of
our soul. May we realize that we are never alone.

Bible Reading: from Joel 2

**L: May we open ourselves to the seeds of wisdom
that lie dormant in this reading.
And may our minds be fertile soil
in which they may grow strong and true**

“But know this,” says Yahweh
“Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Tear open your heart,
not your clothes!”
Return to Yahweh your God,
who is gracious and deeply loving as a mother,
quick to forgive, abundantly tender-hearted—
and relents from inflicting disaster.
Who knows? God may come back, relent,
and leave a blessing behind—
grain and drink offerings†
for Yahweh your God.
Rejoice, Children of Zion! Rejoice!
Be glad in Yahweh your God,
who sends you rain—
the autumn and spring rains as of old—
and a new spring crop.
The threshing floors will be heaped with grain,
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.
After that, I will pour out my Spirit
on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy,
your elders will have prophetic dreams,
and your young people will see visions.
In those days, I will pour out my Spirit
even on those in servitude,
women and men alike.
I will show signs in the heavens and on the earth.

**L. For the word of God in scripture, For the word of God among
us. For the word of God within us. We give thanks**

HYMN

Contemporary Reading

Joan Chittister Benedictine theologian.

What do the great prophets – Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Joel, Ezekiel, and Jesus – have in common with us? All of them were simple souls like you and me. All of them loved without limit, burned with an enduring patience, were afire with God, and proclaimed a new vision. All of them invite you and me to

claim our prophetic dimension and speak God's work in the midst of human chaos. Prophecy, is not a luxury; it is an essential dimension of the religious life.

What this world needs most right now, is a new generation of prophets. The problem is that we have lost all respect for them. In fact, we may not even recognize them when we see them. Yet, it was precisely for times such as ours that God sent the prophets. It is surely time for this generation to rediscover them.

Anthem:

REFLECTION

The Prophetic Church

There are many people who live in inherent conservatism. They accept the world and life as it is. They believe in the goodwill of those who lead and serve us and accept the basic institutional realities that shape and sustain all of our lives.

There are others who are critical and even deeply sceptical of the dominant values of contemporary society. They question both the vision and motivation of those in political and social leadership. And they are unhappy with many of our social institutions, believing that these only favour those who already have much.

Sadly, there are also those who simply don't care. Their primary concern is with themselves and their families, but the wider political and social questions are of little interest.

While these three groupings do not exhaust all the possibilities, they do set some of the contours. What we may ask is, where do Christians fit into these categories? While Christians through the ages Christians have sought to be agents of change and transformation, often Christians have lived a dull conservatism.

It seems that Christians are called to fit into none of these three categories. They present the possibility of a fourth option. And this option becomes a possibility when they travel together on the Way of Christ. The Way of Christ affirms a profound respect for the created world as God's handiwork. It celebrates all that is good in the social order as the gifts of grace. But it also recognises the deep fault lines in our own personal lives and in the social fabric. It faces the human propensity towards self-gratification, autonomy, the misuse of power and the capacity for self-deception and idolatry. In the face of these bitter realities travelling the Way of Christ emphasises the transformation of people, the

empowerment of the poor, a passion for justice and seeks the healing and restoration of the whole created order.

Therefore, Christians can never be the third grouping. They cannot be those who don't care since the Christ whom they follow cares passionately for the restoration of all things including individuals and families, but also the institutions social order that sustains and shapes our lives.

Christians cannot be the first grouping either. While they rightly celebrate and appreciate all that is good in our world, they cannot be blind to its evil and idolatry. Conservatism blesses what is, including our own contributions to injustice and disharmony. The way of Christ is a call to turn around and to live as if in the Kingdom of God. This calls us to be the agents of transformation, not the servants of conservatism.

If there is any single group to which Christians could belong, it is the second. But this requires important qualifications. Christians are not critical of their world out of mere negativity or a rebellious spirit. Nor are they critical through the embrace of an ideology that, while it offers a utopian dream finally brings enslavement and oppression.

Instead, Christians are critical of themselves and of their world in the light of the hope that the spirit will bring renewal that issues in - reconciliation, peace, justice and the embrace of the poor.

What all this means is that Christians impacted by a vision of walking on the way of Christ will live that vision in their communities of faith and will seek in loving service to carry the vision of Christ to others and to the social realities of our time.

This calls the Christian community to the task of discernment and to the gift of prophecy. The exercise of this gift never begins with critiquing our world. It begins in contemplation, becoming attentive to the word of God, to our own lives and to the pain and dysfunctionality of our world. It then issues in our own repentance and in sacrificial and committed down to earth loving our neighbour. Out of this, prophetic speaking may emerge.

While different Christians may have different specific issues about areas of social concern nevertheless, we are challenged to search for a prophetic voice. We are not simply called to bless, but also to discern. We are not only to affirm, but also to challenge. We are not called only to announce good news, but also to denounce the ideologies of our time.

In following and travelling on the way of Christ we are not those who merely contemplate heavenly things and are inattentive to the issues of our time. Rather the one dimension impacts the other. The vision of Christ draws us to our neighbours. The plight of our neighbours draws us onward, along the way of Christ.

Reflective music

Sharing the Peace.

L . Let us take a moment to celebrate each other.

The peace of God is here... to stay.

All. **Thanks be to God.**

At this point we stand in our places, our hands in the prayer position and bow to those around us.

Candle of Remembrance and Hope

We light this candle in remembrance and hope.

To call to mind

Magnus and Rognvald and all the saints,
All those dear to us who have gone before
And those who have died in recent times.

And as a sign of hope to future generations as yet unborn.

Jesus said

'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not
walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'

Prayers of Concern and the Jesus Prayer

Although it may not be on our doorstep people are being mindlessly killed across this globe as a result of unnecessary conflict, corporate greed, evil regimes. And these people are part of our community too. So we pray for all who are mourning loss this day.

L: These are the words of our hearts.

R: **So may it be.**

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

L: These are the words of our hearts.

R: So may it be.

May the Spirit 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.

L: These are the words of our hearts.

R: So may it be.

God our Maker

Who is everywhere, Your name is holy. May your new world come

And your will be done, In this place as in all times and places.

Meet our needs everyday and Forgive our failure to love, As we forgive others who fail us. Save us from loads too hard to bear

And lead us into your light. For everything on earth and the universe beyond is yours, now, and for all time.

Amen

HYMN

Sending out

L; The blessing of trust be upon and between us,

All; The expression of love direct and encourage us,

L; The power of visions and possibility guide us.

All; The beauty of laughter and tears ground us,

L; The reality of unity sustain and comfort us,

Benediction

Go and walk in the Way of Christ, and may you be blessed by his Spirit this day and always.

Choral Amen

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnuscathedral.org

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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.

Please refrain from photography during the service. Thanks.