

St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall

www.stmagnus.org

Scottish Charity SCO 05322/CCL No 119086

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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.

You can find our Sunday worship here.

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

or on YouTube here.

<https://youtu.be/ZQ9VURSi0YQ>

Join our Wednesday ZOOM meditation by signing up here.

stmagnuszoom@gmail.com

Candle Lighting and opening meditation

As the fire of the Spirit gave life to the Early Church
So may the Life-Light symbolized in this candle flame give us a fiery
thirst for justice, and hope for the future.
Just when we think nothing new can be found in us, all things known, all
things gone as far as they can go:
The Spirit of new beginnings is born again within us,.
Just when we think nothing can ever change, all things established,
embedded in old powers, the transforming flow of Life is here among us
in new ways of being.

Just when the cycles of death and life drag us down into nothingness, all things despairing, all things destroying— We rise in vivid life beyond our weak survivals, Spirit of victories over death. We give thanks for life!

Reading from Acts chapter 2

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a violent, rushing wind from heaven; the noise filled the entire house in which they were sitting. Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each one. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as she enabled them. Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled. But they were bewildered to hear their native languages being spoken. They were amazed and astonished: "Surely all of these people speaking are Galileans! How does it happen that each of us hears these words in our native tongue? We hear them preaching, each in our own language, about the marvels of God!" All were amazed and disturbed. They asked each other, "What does this mean?" Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd:

"Women and men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem!

Listen to what I have to say!

'In the days to come— it is our God who speaks—

I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind.

Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams. Even on the most insignificant of my people,

both women and men, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. And all who call upon the name of our God will be saved.'

Reflection

Today is Pentecost Sunday.

The day we see and hear about some of the great symbols of faith.

The day we all see red!

Pentecost is about
being surprised, and
being fully enlivened by God's spirit, as Jesus was.

And Pentecost is about hearing and experiencing
the presence of God
in a language we can understand...

Not just in Australian or French or Korean or Danish,
but also in the language of
unemployment,
television commercials,
supermarket shopping
and school play yards.
ooOoo

Our biblical storyteller from the Early church
- tradition has it, it is the one called Luke -
takes the Pentecost tradition he has received and,
with the skill of an artist,
reshapes it so its abiding significance is there for all to see...

An overwhelming awareness of the presence of the Spirit:
joyous praise. And a message of inclusion and reconciliation...

Once upon a time,
all the colours in the world started to quarrel.
Each claimed that she was
the best,
the most important,
the most useful,
the favourite.

Green said:
Clearly I am the most important.
I am the sign of life and hope.
I was chosen for grass, trees, leaves.
Without me all the animals would die.

Look out over the countryside and you will see
that I am in the majority.

Blue interrupted:
You only think about the earth,
but consider the sky and the sea.

It is water that is the basis of life
and this is drawn up by the clouds from the blue sea.

The sky gives space and peace and serenity.
Without my peace you would all be nothing but busybodies.

Yellow chuckled:
You are all so serious.
I bring laughter, gaiety and warmth into the world.
The sun is yellow,
the moon is yellow,
the stars are yellow.

Every time you look at a sunflower
the whole world starts to smile.
Without me there would be no fun.

Orange
started next to blow her own trumpet:
I am the colour of health and strength.
I may be scarce, but I am precious
for I serve the inner needs of human life.

I carry all the most important vitamins.
Think of carrots and pumpkins,
oranges, mangoes and pawpaws.

I don't hang around all the time,
but when I fill the sky at sunrise or sunset,
my beauty is so striking that no one
gives another thought to any of you.

Red
could stand it not longer. He shouted out:
I'm the ruler of you all, blood, life's blood.
I am the colour of danger and of bravery.
I am willing to fight for a cause.
I bring fire in the blood.

Without me the earth would be empty as the moon.
I am the colour of passion and of love,

the red rose, poinsettia and poppy.

Purple

rose up to his full height.

He was very tall and spoke with great pomp:

I am the colour of royalty and power.

Kings, chiefs and bishops have always chosen me
for I am a sign of authority and wisdom.

People do not question me.

They listen and obey.

Indigo

spoke much more quietly than all the others,
but just as determinedly:

Think of me. I am the colour of silence.

You hardly notice me,

but without me,

you all become superficial.

I represent thought and reflection,
twilight and deep waters.

You need me for balance and contrast,
for prayer and inner peace.

And so the colours went on boasting,
each convinced that they were the best.
Their quarrelling became louder and louder.

Suddenly there was a startling flash of brilliant white lightning.

Thunder rolled and boomed.

Rain started to pour down relentlessly.

The colours all crouched down in fear,
drawing close to one another for comfort.

Then Rain spoke:

You foolish colours, fighting among yourselves,
each trying to dominate the rest.

Do you not know that God made you all?

Each for a special purpose,
unique and different.

God loves you all.
God wants you all.
Join hands with one another and come with me.

God will stretch you across the sky in a great bow of colour,
as a reminder of that love for you all,
so you can appreciate each other and live together in peace.

Pentecost and Reconciliation call us
to live a life of extravagant generosity
beyond ideas and images and behaviour
that lock us into fear, timidity,
and a diminishing understanding of our true selves.

Prayer

May the Spirit of God, in whose likeness all are made, teach us to see
each other as we are seen -
each individual, nation and people - beautiful.

Beloved.

Valued beyond measure. May we be enabled to see as Christ sees.

May the Spirit of God, who is love,
teach us to love each other as we are loved -
from the very heart of who we are,
embracing friend, embracing neighbour, embracing stranger. Generous,
self-giving, surmounting all barriers - real and perceived. May we be
moved
to love as Christ loved.

May the Spirit of God, who is impartial, teach us to strive
as Christ strived - raging with the oppressed, unsettling the comfortable,
refusing to be stilled or quieted until the cries for justice are heard, and
echoed, and lived into being.

May we be stirred to be agents
of challenge and change.

May the Spirit of God, who demands justice, move us from the inactive,
safe, silent, place on the fence. May our eyes be opened - now.

May we be moved to listen - now.

May we hear - now. Speak out - now. Speak up - now.
Struggle and move and act for justice - right now - in our world,
our nation, our Church - today.

Amen.

Blessing

Let us put our hands into the hand of God and go out with joy
Awakened to the treasure within and around us,
To bring transformation, challenge and hope to the world.

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