



Three Churches Service

25 October 2020

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer knew that when the church stops talking about Jesus, it has nothing to say. And when it assumes dominance, it's not talking about Jesus" ~Samuel Wells

Order of Service

Leader: Come and worship!

All: *We will praise the One between, within, and over.*

Leader: Trust in the One who co-creates the was, the now, and the will-be.

All: *Our hope is in the One who creates expansive love calling us to do the same.*

Leader: Follow the One who never breaks covenant.

All: *We follow the One whose extravagant love calls us to co-create justice for the oppressed, feed the hungry, unlock prisons, and welcome strangers, orphans, and widows.*

Leader: Praise the One whose justice is grace-full and inclusive.

All: *We praise the Spirit that spans the ages. Amen!*

Hymn: "Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty" by Reginald Heber, performed by Amelia Wallace, organ performance by Henry Wallace

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God ever living through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayers of approach

Collect for the day:

Out of the workshop, the table. Out of the forge, the chalice. Out of the bakery, the bread. Out of the grape, the wine. Here are the gifts of God, the work of sun and rain and the patient earth, and the skill of human hands. We come to be feasted, we the hungry. We come to be captured, we the unruly. We come to be gripped, we the unsteady. Into the midst of us, holy and human, Christ is here. Close to the best of us and to the worst of us, he promises to bless. And we give thanks. Amen.

An interview with Jonny Kinross CEO of GCP- Resilience in Lockdown

Readings: Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90-1-6, 13-17 (responsive reading), Matthew 22: 34 – 46, read from the New International Version by Jenny Paton-Williams

Deuteronomy 34:1-12: The Death of Moses

34 Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, ²all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, ³the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. ⁴Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

⁵And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. ⁷Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. ⁸The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

⁹Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and

to all his officials and to his whole land. ¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Psalm 90: 1–6, 13–17 (said responsively)

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
- 2 *Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
- 3 You turn us back to dust,
and say, 'Turn back, you mortals.'
- 4 *For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.*
- 5 You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
6 *in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.*
- 13 Turn, O LORD! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
- 14 *Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.*
- 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
- 16 *Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.*
- 17 Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Matthew 22:34-46: The Greatest Commandment & Whose Son Is the Messiah?

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

⁴³ He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

⁴⁴ "The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."

⁴⁵ If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Sermon: Rev Richard Frazer, Minister, Greyfriars Kirk

Music for Reflection: "Soay" (Arr. Dale) performed by Voces 8

Pastoral Prayer: Rev David Paton-Williams, Minister, St. Columba's by the Castle

Holy Communion: Rev Richard Frazer, Minister, Greyfriars Kirk

Motet: "O taste and see" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, performed by Henry and Amelia Wallace

Prayer and Blessing: Rev Richard Frazer, Minister, Greyfriars Kirk

Hymn: "Inspired by love and anger" by John L Bell and Graham Maule, organ performance by Henry Wallace

Inspired by love and anger,
disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias,
we ponder once again:
'How long must some folk suffer?
How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest
turn prayer and pity blind?

From those for ever victims
of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes
a litany of need:
'Where are the fruits of justice?
Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners
and dreams find their release?'

God asks, 'Who will go for me?
Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen,
will prophecy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome,

will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow,
will walk the road I show?

Amused in someone's kitchen,
asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients
exposed, proclaimed, and wrote,
a saviour without safety,
a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance
with fisherman and fools.