

This Sunday May 17th, is the sixth Sunday after Easter as we wait, with the disciples, for the completion for Jesus' promise:

"Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high"

In two weeks, on the 31st May, we celebrate Pentecost when this "power" was received by the disciples as the Holy Spirit came down with such spectacular effect.

We have been looking at the coming of the Holy Spirit to Christians in our "on line" Alpha group using "zoom" to bring us together. This is working well and it is great to have this group going again.

We are also able to restart our weekly house group meetings and if anyone would like to join in with these, either by telephone or "Zoom", please contact me by phone or e-mail. (01546 870647 or sessionclerk@northknapdale.org).

Last week the housegroup was joined by Cliff, who was able to tell us about the challenges and joys of working with his new congregation in Middletown. He and Maxine are well, coping with lock down, and send their love and greetings to all in North Knapdale and Glassary Kilmartin and Ford. You can find Cliff's Sunday worship service at:

<https://youtu.be//AxcHHXHfVqo>

This is Christian Aid Week

I hope that those who wish to donate have been able to do so either at the collection points below:

Kim has put a notice on the board at Crinan and on the Crinan Facebook page.

Catherine at Achnamara will tell people in Achnamara that donations can be handed direct to her address

Catherine at Cairnbaan is displaying a banner and there will be a box outside her house for donations.

In Tayvallich the shop has a box for donations.

Anyone who has a problem donating can give Norma a ring - 870 350 and she will arrange to collect it.

or by visiting the Christian Aid Website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Kasamba Church, Malawi.

At the moment the Kasamba congregation is continuing to worship, but with “social distancing”, spread out over two halls, and with handwashing and sanitiser in use. Please pray for wisdom for their leadership, particularly the Minister, Rev Custom Kapombe, as they seek the best way to look after their congregation and people of the district.

Phone line for Worship:

Here is a message from Margaret Jacobsen with details of a free phone line for worship and prayer:

“... I came across this Anglican phone line this week and I think it is very good. I've passed it to the Churches where I am interim moderator and I hope that the session clerks may be able to tell people who are not on the internet about it.”

It is introduced by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are three options, you can:

1. Listen to a well known hymn being sung then listen to a reflection on it, about 15 minutes.
2. Listen to well known hymns being sung and sing along.
3. Listen to a prayer relevant to today's world

This service is called Daily Hope, the phone number is 0800 804 8044 Phone calls are free.

More news from Presbytery:

From: Pres. Argyll

Sent: 15 May 2020 10:21

To: Pres. Argyll <Argyll@churchofscotland.org.uk>

Subject: Prayer Rota and Intimations

Presbytery Prayer Rota

Sunday 17 May 2020

Please pray for the following congregations and their ministers:

Colonsay and Oronsay: Interim Moderator – Mrs Alison Hay

Please pray for all who are vulnerable, anxious, lonely or in any way impoverished through Covid-19, and gives thanks that we are so fortunate as to have our own Reader, Alasdair Scouller, to bring our congregation together in weekly praise.

Kilninian and Kilmore: Locum – Rev Liz Gibson

Please pray for the family and friends grieving one of Dervaig's legendary characters, a lovely man. And give thanks for the regular Faith Matters email being sent out by the Session Clerk.

Please pray for the **Rev Martin Fair as he is installed as our new Moderator of the General Assembly.**

His Installation will be broadcast on the Church of Scotland's Website and Facebook page on **Saturday 16 May at 11.00am.**

- **Social Security Scotland:** Below is an attachment to a newsletter, sent to me by Rev Janet MacKellar, giving details of new funding for funerals, and for low income families in this current situation. It may be useful for folks in our churches to have.

<https://mailchi.mp/7929e7c84f92/social-security-scotland-october-newsletter-4509620?e=01ea2ffeb4>

- **Presbytery Facebook Page:** If anyone wishes something posted on the Presbytery Facebook Page **please contact either Liz Gibson (egibson@churchofscotland.org.uk) or Scott Burton (Sburton@churchofscotland.org.uk).**

- **Heart and Soul will be streamed on the Church of Scotland Website beginning at 2.00pm on Sunday 17 May.**

- **Online services available from Argyll**

The following services are being provided online for local congregations and those who wish to log in from places further afield:

West Kintyre and Gigha – Rev Scott Burton -<https://www.westkintyreandgighachurchofscotland.org/> Worship

The United Church of Bute – Rev Owain Jones - <https://www.unitedchurchofbute.org.uk/>

The Shore Kirk – Rev Janet MacKellar –

**<https://sites.google.com/view/theshorekirk/home>
or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/345399762209092/>**

Ardchattan lw Coll lw Connel – Rev Willem Bezuidenhout [https://
www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/](https://www.ardchattanchurch.org.uk/)

West Cowal – Rev David Mitchell

<https://www.westcowalchurches.org.uk>

South Kintyre – Rev Steve Fulcher

www.kintyreparishes.org.uk

Netherlorn Churches Worship Team

<http://www.netherlornchurches.org.uk/>

West Lochfyneside:

<https://www.westlochfyneside.org.uk>

Kilmore and Oban:

www.obanchurch.com

Keep Safe

Stewart

Psalm and reflection:

The Psalm for this week is Psalm 66 and particularly verses 8 to 20 (although the whole Psalm is worth reading!)

The reflection on this from the Church of Scotland weekly Worship website, and it is written by Rev Colin Sinclair, who is the retiring Moderator.

Psalm 66:8-20

O bless our God, you peoples!

And make the voice of His praise to be heard.

Who keeps our soul among the living,

And does not allow our feet to be moved.

For you, O God, have tested us;

You have refined us as silver is refined.

You brought us into the net

You laid affliction on our backs.

You have caused men to ride over our heads;

We went through fire and through water;

But You brought us out to rich fulfilment.

I will go into Your house with burnt offerings;

I will pay You my vows,

Which my lips have uttered

And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.

I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals
With the sweet aroma of rams;
I will offer bulls with goats.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
And I will declare what He has done for my soul,
I cried to Him with my mouth,
and He was extolled with my tongue.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear
But, certainly God has heard me;
He has attended to the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God
Who has not turned away my prayer,
Nor His mercy from me!

The Psalmist calls on the people to praise God. Life had not been easy (how often that is true) but God had not abandoned them. There were some tense moments, when the people being tested almost slipped, but God's hand was there to steady them. Even at their darkest points God did not abandon them.

There are so many points of their history where this could be true, with the Exodus and the Exile being the supreme examples. When life is tough we can either turn to God in trust or turn from God in despair or bitterness. The response to deliverance should always be gratitude and worship. Having called on God to help, it is only right and proper to make time to express thanks when such help is forthcoming.

The worship will include an appropriate thank offering sacrifice. We do not offer sacrifices now, as was done in the psalmist's time, but we can offer both the sacrifice of praise (for real worship should cost us something) and we should also be willing to present our bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2).

One of the marks of authentic faith is that it is not just an add-on, but a choice that others can see costs us something.

Finally, the psalmist invites others to gather round and hear the story of their faithful God. The psalmist had to consciously choose

God over sin, but it was a decision they never regretted. God had listened to their prayer and had answered them; and in so doing had confirmed God's love. Such grace is always deserving of our worship and praise.

You can find news on our church website: www.northknapdale.org
And our Face Book page – North Knapdale Church.

North Knapdale Church of Scotland - Charity No: SC001002

David Logue, Session Clerk.
North Knapdale Church