

Welcome to Penicuik North Kirk: Sunday 4 October 2009

Annual BB Dedication Service

Please stand as the Bible is carried into church

Please remain standing as the colours are carried into church

Praise Shout

Praise “Jesus put this song into our hearts”

Setting the scene

It's great to see you all in Church today and especially so many of the boys and young men who make up the 48th Edinburgh Company of the Boys' Brigade. Later we'll hear someone read out 'the object of the Boys' Brigade'. But I wonder of many of us know what 'the object of the Church' is. Here are three words that will help us: 'share', 'care' and 'prayer'.

The church is a community of people, called to follow Christ. God wants us to grow in peace and wholeness. The object of the church is to provide a community in which this can happen. As we share with each other, we begin to care for each other and this leads us into prayer for each other.

Prayer

Praise “I am the Church, you are the Church”

Prayers for others

Old Testament Reading

Numbers 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29 in *The Message* (see screen)

The Camp At Taberah

The riffraff among the people had a craving and soon they had the People of Israel whining, “Why can't we have meat? We ate fish in Egypt – and got it free! – to say nothing of the cucumbers and melons, the leeks and onions and garlic. But nothing tastes good out here; all we get is manna, manna, manna.”

Moses heard the whining, all those families whining in front of their tents. GOD's anger blazed up. Moses saw that things were in a bad way.

Moses said to GOD, “Why are you treating me this way? What did I ever do to you to deserve this? Did I conceive them? Was I their mother? So why dump the responsibility of this people on me? Why tell me to carry them around like a nursing mother, carry them all the way to the land you promised to their ancestors? Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people who are whining to me, ‘Give us meat; we want meat.’ I can’t do this by myself – it’s too much, all these people. If this is how you intend to treat me, do me a favour and kill me. I’ve seen enough; I’ve had enough. Let me out of here.”

GOD said to Moses, “Gather together seventy men from among the leaders of Israel, men whom you know to be respected and responsible. Take them to the Tent of Meeting. I’ll meet you there.”

So Moses went out and told the people what GOD had said. He called together seventy of the leaders and had them stand around the Tent. GOD came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy leaders. When the Spirit rested on them they prophesied. But they didn’t continue; it was a onetime event.

Meanwhile two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed in the camp. They were listed as leaders but they didn’t leave camp to go to the Tent. Still, the Spirit also rested on them and they prophesied in the camp.

A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!” Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ right-hand man since his youth, said, “Moses, master! Stop them!”

But Moses said, “Are you jealous for me? Would that all GOD’s people were prophets. Would that GOD would put his Spirit on all of them.”

Praise “Jesus stand among us at the meeting of our lives”

New Testament Readings

James 5:13–20 (page 291 in the new church Bibles, pages 292-293 in the old)

Mark 9:38–41 and 50 (page 59 in both the new and old church Bibles)

Prayer

Here we are, our Father.

You called us, and we’ve come.

You want us to learn some more about your love for us,
and we want your help to make our lives less selfish and more loving.

So we have come to church
to listen to what you have to say to us,
to give you thanks for what you do for us,
and to share with you and each other
the hopes you have given us through Jesus.
Help us to make good use of our time together:
and when we leave here again
help us to take our worship home with us.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Praise

“The church is wherever God’s people are praising”

We need each other

Think back to our Old Testament reading. There we find Moses telling God how he felt about having to bear all the whining and whinging of the people all by himself – he felt, not just alone, but lonely. Many people today have to carry burdens or responsibilities on their own. Others feel lonely or lost because there is no one to care for them. We really do need each other.

The Bible encourages us to bear each other’s burdens, to care for each other, to look out for each other. Paul talks about the different gifts that God gives to all Jesus’ friends and followers so that we can look after each other. James tells us to pray for each other, confess our sins and help each other to follow Christ. So being a Christian is never easy – in fact, sometimes it’s really tough – but it’s easier if we have the help of our Christian brothers and sisters. We really do need each other.

But even this is not enough. Think back to our Old Testament reading again – the story about Moses and the elders. Moses really needed the elders to work with him, but it was only when God filled them with the Spirit that the elders were able to share Moses’ responsibility. They all needed God’s help. In the part of his letter we read earlier, James tells us to help each other by praying for help, confessing our sins and bringing people back to the true and living way. The emphasis in all of these actions is on God. They are all actions which help people to receive God’s grace. Looking out for each other is great and helping each other is cool, but without God there is something missing. We all need God’s help.

So the church is made up of individuals who support each other as a community, but this community is only effective when God's grace is at work within it. So may the North Kirk be such a community: one in which we support each other unconditionally, one in which our friends and families and neighbours see God's grace at work. Then we'll be the kind of community our friends and families and neighbours will want to be part of.

Offering, Song and Prayer

“Let there be love shared among us”

Object of the Boys' Brigade

Service of Dedication

Praise

“For everyone born a place at the table”

“God save the Queen”

Closing prayer

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