



Order of Service

1st of May 2022

10.00 am

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from Martin Petty and the Choir



‘Do you love me?’

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.”

Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.

Edinburgh Balerno Parish Church of Scotland: Scottish Charity No. 018012

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning

I hope you are all well.

Allow me a few announcements please:

8 May 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

THE WEEK AHEAD

5 May @ 10:30 pm Presbytery deployment meeting at Manse

6-8 May Fresh start collections

And then on a sad note: One of our elder William Wallace has died. We will remember him for his years as service as a session clerk. The details for his funeral is not yet published. We think of his family at this time.

Worshipping God Together

Minister: Many angels encircle the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sing:

All: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'

Minister: To which we join our own Amen.

All: Amen!

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Creator God
your love is stronger
than the summit of a mountain
more gentle than the petal of a lily
brighter than a candle flame
in the blackness of night.

Your light in Christ
shining before creation
breaking into time
born of a woman
living as a man.

Your love in Christ
suffering for the world
carrying our pain
dying on the cross
sealed in the tomb.

Your light in Christ
could not be extinguished
rising from darkness

shining within us
through your Holy Spirit.

May our love burn
with the light of Christ
and be a reflection of your love
as we seek to recognise
you in each other.

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be THY name. THY kingdom come, THY will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Reading: John 21:15-19 by David Booth
Jesus and Peter

¹⁵ After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs."

¹⁶ A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." ¹⁷ A third time Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and so he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!" Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep. ¹⁸ I am telling you the truth: when you were young,

you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will tie you up and take you where you don't want to go.”¹⁹ (In saying this, Jesus was indicating the way in which Peter would die and bring glory to God.) Then Jesus said to him, “Follow me!”

Choir sings “At your feet we fall”

Reflection

Last week as I was preparing the sermon and thinking and praying about the text, I could not help but wonder about my style of delivering sermons...

Every week when I deliver the sermon, it seems as if I fall into the same habit of doing and saying the same thing namely the text verse for the sermon is and then I continue which in itself is not wrong but for you the listeners it must be really boring

When I reflected on this I wondered why in the first place do I wonder about my style, when I am supposed to reflect on what the text is saying...

It then struck me and I had a real light bulb moment...

Just like my “set habit/pattern of reflection”, Love can easily become a habit... where everything about LOVE becomes a habit of saying the right words, I love you. But then after reading our text, Jesus is saying that LOVE is a VERB...much more than just merely words. It involves action...

To illustrate this, I am going to have a wee experiment to show you what LOVE can really do to our lives when we apply it... when our words are followed by actions.

The vinegar is our lives... just ordinary – you will say...

But when we throw in a wee bit of God's forgiving and sacrificial love... our lives changes from being **ordinary** to be being extraordinary.. from **boring** to bubbling over for everyone to see...

And this is what Jesus was trying to say to Peter and the others....

No wonder Jesus repeats it three times..

Three. The number three was a very

important number because it confirmed that something really was true and that it was intentional. When Peter denied Jesus three times previously, it was really a profound event. He really meant it! But now



Jesus gives him another opportunity, a second chance by asking him to confirm his love three times. And Jesus is also giving him options of how to show his love. It is clear that according to Jesus - Love is always followed by actions and if he really means it, he must show it through the actions of:

- feeding the “lambs” or the wee ones,
- taking care of the flock,
- feeding the “sheep” or those who are not lambs anymore,
- following Jesus,
- to be a living sacrifice in the name of Jesus.

It is interesting to note that Jesus uses his official full birth name Simon, Son of John, to emphasize the importance of the matter almost in the same way our mothers speak to us when we are in real trouble... I always remember that my Great Grandmother always

addressed me as “Andrew” ... and in such a fashion that I knew I was in trouble...

It is also interesting to see how the writer made use of the words for love in



the Greek text. When he speaks of

the love of Jesus, he uses twice the word



“agape”. When Peter responds with his statement of love, he uses the word

“philo”. Why? Because in the Greek language there is a distinction between the love that God has for human beings and the love of human beings towards God. But interestingly the writer changes the order of words for love in verse 17. In verse 17 he uses in both cases

the word “philo” – depicting the love of Jesus as “philo”.

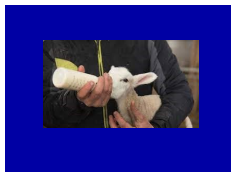
My theory would be that Jesus was referring to his sacrifice on the cross. He suffered, although He was fully God, the death of a human being. He **showed the love of a “human being”** which explains the choice to use the word “philo” and not “agape”. Jesus’ love of course is sacrificial love, love that is costly!

And it corresponds with what Jesus said in verse 19 namely that Peter will eventually die a sacrificial death because of his faith.

So in a sense Jesus challenged not only Peter but all the rest of the disciples, you and me included?

If we say that we love God, we need to show it.

We need to show it through our commitment of following Jesus in everything we do and say.



Our actions must reflect the love that we have by our one hundred

commitments of serving God through lives of

faith, hope and love. We need to

look spiritually after our wee ones,

the children and our youth, We

cannot ignore them and wait for them to make



their own choices, without us leading and guiding them properly.



We also need to look after one another, as brothers and sisters in faith. We cannot **ignore each other**, or **gossip** about one another. The easiest way to fall out with people is to **always highlight all our differences**. Maybe the time has come for all of us to just accept that God has made us all so **different with a purpose**. We need to **dance** with one another despite our differences in a dance of God's inclusive love.



The only way the world will ever see our love for God is through our

actions of taking care of one another by ways of helping each other through sickness and health, through bereavements and suffering, through sunshine and rain, through thunder and stormy situations.



The only way our brothers and sisters of faith will ever see our love for God is through our actions of feeding others spiritually and physically, meaning doing charitable work in our everyday living.

The Lord God demands us to love **unconditionally and sacrificial in all our** relationships on earth. It is no wonder that in the New Testament several writers used the

“relationship between a man and his wife” to describe the relationship between God and his church. I guess it is then striking that there is a link between the **world’s apathy for God’s love** and the **high divorce rate among couples**. Sacrificial love is where the **“I” do not matter** anymore but where the **“we” or the “other”** are more important than my own selfish nature.

Love is clearly not a **feeling or a fleeting** momentous emotion but a **responsibility of action**.

One evening before the great Broadway star, **Mary Martin** was to go on stage in the Musical

South Pacific, a note was handed to her. It was from the co- producer of the sound of music, **Oscar Hammerstein**, who was on his death bed. The note simply read: “Dear Mary, A bell is not a bell until you ring it. **A song is not a song until you sing it. Love in your heart** is not put there to stay. **Love is not love till you give it away.**” After the performance Mary was rushed backstage and everyone was asking the same question, “We have never seen you perform that way before, what happened?” Mary read them Hammerstein’s note and said, **“Tonight, I gave my love away.”**

Christian life is like a musical where you and I are the players to tell the world about God’s

love. If we **do not perform in a sacrificial way** – if we do not **give our love away by giving everything we have**, then the world will not understand the love that God has for us - A **love that God will not let go** - A love that God will **sustain and nourish as long as we live it.**

In the **love story of God**, we have to and we can only respond to His love through our **promise to follow Jesus with grateful hearts.** We can only respond with our love through our **actions of commitment, responsibility,** and the willingness to sacrifice the self.

And let us remember we can fool one another by performances of **fake love**, but we can

never fool **God or children...**Why? Because children **know the proof lies in the pudding** which brings me to a funny story, I read on the internet about exactly this.

A young lady was **sunbathing on the beach** when a little boy in his swimming trunks, carrying a towel, came up to her and asked her, **"Do you believe in God?"**

She was surprised by the question, but she replied, **"Why, yes, I do."**

Then he asked her: "**Do you go to church every Sunday?**"

Again, her answer was "Yes!"

He then asked: "**Do you read your Bible and pray every day?**"

Again she said, "Yes!" By now her curiosity was very much **aroused**.

The little lad sighed with relief and said, "Will you hold my money while I go swimming?"

May the world, and our community in Balerno
know our love without us saying even one
word!

Amen

CH4 694

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Prayer of thanksgiving by Elaine McCullough

CH4 509

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult

Blessing

Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:
Go and be empowered by the commandment
to love,
encouraged in your ability to love,
and blessed in your receiving of love, day by
day.
In Jesus' name.

And the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you
and with all whom you love wherever they may
be
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Congregation sing Amen, Amen, Amen



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Intimations

Sunday, 1st of May 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

8 May 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

THE WEEK AHEAD

5 May @ 10:30 pm Presbytery deployment meeting at Manse

6-8 May Fresh start collections



THE MILL CAFÉ



Open Tuesday – Friday, 9.30am – 2pm
Serving teas/coffees, home baking, snack lunches.
We are a friendly group and are always delighted to welcome new volunteers to our team. Pop in and see what we are all about.

BALERNO BANK DETAILS:

Sort code 83 - 19 - 15
Account 00119731
Balerno Church of Scotland

