



Order of Service



9 October 2022
10 am



Worship led by:
Rev Dr AJ Groenewald
Musicians:
Martin Petty and choir

Gathering of God's People

Time when we greet one another and prepare for worship.
Those who are able please stand for the entry of the Bible.
Words of welcome and announcements.

Good morning

I hope you are all well...

Welcome to any guests...

The announcements for the week:
We have a Session meeting on Wednesday evening.
Please pray for God's will to be done.

On a sad note I have to inform you all of the passing of
Ishbel Dickson. No arrangements for her funeral have
yet been made.

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship

Minister: Great are the works of the Lord,
Full of honour and majesty is his
work,
and...his praise endures for ever.'

ALL: Let us praise the Lord!

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

CH4

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Opening prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

Lord, we gather before you to celebrate your great works.

Throughout history, you have shown your grace and mercy,

and have lifted up the outcast and the lowly
to show them how special they are to you.

Lift us now, we pray,
that we may always remember your love for us
and be open to sharing it with others,
whatever their situation.

God who remembers us
in mercy and in love,
we gather to remember you
and all that you have done for us.

We draw close to you,
Father, Son and Spirit,
our God forever –
and we proclaim
the greatness

of your name.

Faithful God, we carry within us forgetful hearts.
So often we neglect to reflect on your goodness to us,
but gratitude is a form of remembering
and remembering is a form of gratitude.
Where we have forgotten to remember,
where we have forsaken love for hate,
mercy for revenge, thoughtfulness for selfishness –
turn us around once more, O God.
Remind us of who you are
and who we are called to be.
We repent and turn away from the things
that reek of forgetting you,
the things that dishonour
the identity we have been given in you.
We ask your Spirit to lead us
into a new day, full of remembering grace.
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.

CH4

It is well with my soul

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: Luke 17.11-19

Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy^[a] met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ **Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."**

Reader: Bill Black

Choir sings:

Sermon

I wonder how many of you have heard the following sentence:

"They say"

Who ARE THEY? I often ask...

In our language we unfortunately have words like US and THEM, ME and YOU ... often portraying really strong feelings behind the words. BUT it is not sometimes the words in itself, it is the gestures that accompany it like Us and them ... me and you ... signaling boundaries and trenches ...

In every family there is someone who stands out and does not confirm to the rest – is there someone here perhaps who has been given this unfortunate label?

And in all our lives, we have someone whom we do not like – it is deeply human. And in every nation, there is one nation that is not liked. And sadly, in every Christian community there is one Christian or Christian denomination that we do not like. It seems as if there is trenches everywhere that divides us from THEM.

The war in Ukraine, seeing real trenches really made me think about how bad it looks? How devastating destructive it is? How debilitating it is to freedom?

I had to ask myself: is this how **our** trenches are looking like? Is this what the world see about us? Do they only see the devastation and not US?

Today's reading is about TRENCHES AND BORDERS - deeply divided ones that Jesus overcame.

So the question is: how did it look in Jesus' time?

We all know that Jesus lived in a deeply divided/segregated society in the sense that it was only the Jews who regarded themselves as Holy and Righteous and Entitled to the land God gave them, against all the other nations - more particularly - the Samaritans in close proximity...

And time and time again - especially in the Gospel of Luke, the Samaritans are used to shock the Jewish listeners into self-reflection, soul searching, self-awareness and action. Time and time again the Samaritan individuals are used to ignite the conscience of the Jewish listeners to ask themselves: How is it possible that it is ONLY the Samaritans that seems to be grateful like in our story, helping , generous and kind in the story of the Good Samaritan and honest like the Samaritan woman at the well?

Our reading starts with a very strong nuanced statement namely: Jesus traveled along the **border** between Samaria and Galilee. ... did you hear that word? BORDER

I wonder what feelings did this word ignite in all of you.. Some will think of the long challenge we had with the Presbytery who initially put Balerno in the BORDER mission district? Some will think about the BIG dividing

structure that divided EAST from WEST in Berlin ... some will think about the BRIDGE to CRIMEA that is currently in the news...

In our reading, it seems that when the 10 lepers were all together they shared the TRENCH against the rest of the world who was healthy. Luke does not even mention their **ethnicity**.

BUT then it all changed when they were healed... they went their **separate** ways and then NO surprise only ONE turned around to thank Jesus who happened to be a Samaritan.

What is the message then?

I think the Jewish listeners heard this through a political lens hearing Jesus from making a political argument for

the Jewish listeners to INCLUDE the Samaritans into the STATE of Israel?

I wonder if this is not the question the Jewish listeners asked themselves when they heard this for the first time.

Is Jesus wanting them to forget the history of how it became about that the Jews and the Samaritans became divided?

Is Jesus a political figure who wants to unite Samaria into the state of Israel?

Is Jesus wanting them to forget their “religious roots” especially Jerusalem and the temple and accept that there is another HOLY place in Gerizim Samaria?

Is Jesus wanting them to accept their religious views by which they only accept the first 5 books of Moses?

Is Jesus saying that **only Samaritans** can be grateful like in our story today or helpful in the story of the Good Samaritan or honest as the Samaritan woman?

We – that live so long after this period – I think we have hindsight and Insight to know and understand where Jesus was coming from...

He was sent by God to end all divides, cross borders and eradicate trenches. He came to remind the believers that TRENCHES and BORDERS only lead to sadness, trauma, devastation, and anxiety. IT is not good for any human being's soul to be trapped in racism, classism, sexism and ageism..

If you are trapped in a TRENCH, you only see MUD or cement walls... you only see barbed wire ... you only see what is directly in front of your eyes .. you only hear your own voice ... you only feel your own pain...

Jesus wanted to tell his listeners and us to get out of the TRENCHES and see what is really in front of us namely God's KINGDOM where there will be peace, joy and love. Jesus wanted to bring the point home that even the **despised** will be welcomed in HIS kingdom.

He wanted to say in a BIG way, if the Jews ever thought that NO Samaritan is worthy of thanks – they are mistaken. IF they ever thought the Samaritans are ungrateful and devoid of any integrity think again...

Jesus wanted the Jews to SEE the Samaritans as PEOPLE and not as a despised entity/race... PEOPLE that was created by GOD with a consciousness and integrity. He wanted them to be open to the fact that even the despised people can teach them valuable lessons about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is asking us the same question this morning: Who is the Samaritan in my life that will teach me a lesson about God? Who is the one that I despise that will come forward and show me the way to God?

Because the miracle of God's greatness happens in that moment that we realize that help, generosity and kindness often comes when least expected.... Even from an unexpected person ...

The miracle when God opens our eyes, minds and ears to "see the wood for the trees" ... when we realize that all of a sudden I do not see a proverbial Samaritan but someone who is a PERSON who has been wonderfully made by God ...

The miracle will happen when we allow ourselves to get out of the TRENCHES and see more clearly what is in

front of us..when we allow ourselves to be taught by someone whom we despise...

Our story also challenges us to think further Healing cannot happen when we are entrenched in our ideas and dogmas... a point that Jesus clearly made at the end of the reading: He does not say your **tradition/religion** has made you well ... He said your faith has made you well. Tradition and religion divided them and can never HEAL or RESTORE. Their different traditions and religious views was their trenches.

BUT because the one LEPER had faith in Jesus – he was made well.

SO no matter who we are and in which dividing camp we find ourselves in – we need to cross the boundary that separates us from THEM... we need to come out of our

trenches and see the wood for the trees ... we need to break down all the elements that divides and destructs..

WHY?

Because we have faith in Jesus Christ to know that this is what He expects us to do. He wants us to be on BORDER control not as a police force but as chaplains and coaches ... again thinking of the BORDER POSTS around Ukraine have changed ... BORDER POSTS who became overnight shelters of care, safety, healing and restoration.

So let us have a think today and praise God for all those in the week who have been that “someone” who taught us something about the compassion of God...let us stop any feeling or notion of being ENTRENCHED

AND go out and reflect on the words of Jesus: your faith
has made you well

AMEN

CH4 By cool Siloam

Responding to God's word

Prayer of thanksgiving: Margaret Black

CH4 Love divine, all loves excelling

Benediction Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

We bring to you, Lord, our memories of our life so far,
however long or short, thanking you for all we have
learnt.

Help us to see ourselves as you see us.

Help us to see other people as you see them.

Thank you for all the different friends we have.

We ask you to show us what really matters.

Help us to remember how much you love us and
everyone.

**And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit will be with you, now and forever more.
Sung Amen, Amen, Amen**

PRAYER

Thank you, God,
for our voices to sing,
our hands to sign,
our minds to think.

Thank you for our family, our friends, our pets,
and for all that makes us who we are.

Amen.

You are invited to stay for tea and coffee which are served in the hall.



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Intimations

Sunday, 9 October 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

23 October 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

30 October 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

6 November 2022 @ 10 am Communion service

6 November 2022 @ 3 pm Communion service



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.

THANKS TO YOU...

Thank you for all your
generous contributions

towards the ministry and mission of the
Church. Gift Aid envelopes are available
in the wallets at the end of each row.

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