



St John the Evangelist

Scottish Episcopal Church, Jedburgh
A community of welcome in the Borders

9th June 2024

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

**10.00 COMMUNION FROM THE
RESERVED SACRAMENT**

Led by: Paul Beck

Hymn 332 All hail the power of Jesu's name (omit *)

PREPARATION

(page 1, blue service book)

Collect O God, our hope and strength, the source and end of all our prayers: because our mortal nature is weak we can do nothing good without your help; support us with your grace, that in keeping your commandments, we may ever remain in your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(page 4, blue service book)

Reading: 2 Cor. 4:13 – 5:1 *(p. 193, pew Bible)*

Psalm 130 **With the Lord there is mercy and
plenteous redemption.**

Hymn 480 In Christ there is no East or West

Gospel: Mark 3:20 – 35

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace

Hymn 282 Faithful Shepherd, feed me

THANKSGIVING PRAYER AND COMMUNION

(turn to the blue RS leaflet, page 2)

At Communion: *there is hand gel on the way to the altar rail
for those who wish to handle the chalice themselves.
Please do not intinct (dip your wafer in the wine).*

Prayer after **Almighty God, guide and protect your
Communion people who share in this sacred mystery,
and keep us always in your love; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn 461 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Dismissal

***We pray especially today for
Syd Farquharson and Grace Lancaster***

Dear Friends and people of God,

it is family, with which the Bible begins in Genesis, not with talk of nations and tribes...but families. And with moments of disfunction so great it makes our heads spin.

And we are taught that we are to be called God's children, God's daughters and sons who bring our Lord (and each other) great joy as well as great consternation. And so, coming to God and God's Kingdom is really like...going home. To family.

In the opening chapters of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' whole ministry had been about announcing a new vision of God and a new way of relating to God. And at the heart of that vision and way is God's desire for the health and healing of all God's creation and God's love and salvation for us no matter the cost, calling us into His kingdom. This is why Jesus in his ministry sets himself against all the powers that would rob humanity and creation of the abundant life God intends.

But what Jesus preaches is not what any religious folk would expect. Why? Because at heart, religion is designed to regulate our relationship with God. The root of the word itself comes from the Latin 'ligare', to bind, which supplies the roots of the words "ligament" (tissue that binds together) and "obligation" (the duties to which one is bound). Religion, thus, most often serves to connect us to God by specifying what actions, duties, and obligations we should undertake out of reverence to God.

On one level there's something absolutely right about this. Religion offers us a way to structure our thinking about God and relationship with God. It gives us forms by which to express our grateful response to all of God's activity. The trouble arises, however, when we allow our religion to become a substitute for a genuine, living relationship with God. We do this when we use religion not just to offer structures that facilitate our relationship, but actually to manage and control that relationship, or access to it, or, worse, to manage and control God.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus' family hear, yet again, that Jesus is drawing crowds, and they go to restrain him—because people are talking. So what does he do? He opens up the tent and allows everyone who wants to enter the chance to enter: 'Who is his family?' – 'Those who do the will of God.' When you, we, do the will of God we get the chance to be his brother, his sister...even his mother!

Jesus' family is an open family. The door to the family homestead is wide open. And while we may bring dysfunction in the door with us—for at times we can look like a real group of misfits...the things we gain are amazing. And the greatest of those things is love.

So, let us continue to come on in. And let us invite others to join the family, too.

With my love and prayers: Andi

Priest-in-Charge

Revd. Andi Hofbauer 07543 104591 andihofb@gmail.com

General enquiries

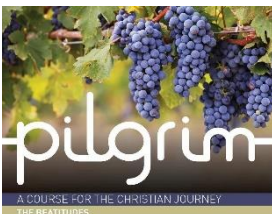
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*Toilets are available next door in St. John's Old School
at the end of the downstairs corridor.*

Our welcomers have the key to the front door.



Beatitudes

Summer study group, Thursdays 10.45 for 11 in the Church after midweek service. July 4, 11, 18 & 25; August 1, 15, 22 & 29. Booklets provided – recommended donation £2.50