



## St John the Evangelist

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

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**Pentecost 23**

**10.00 EUCHARIST**

*Celebrant: Canon Susan Macdonald*

**Hymn 7**

Hills of the North, rejoice

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### **PREPARATION**

*(page 1, blue service book)*

Collect

O Lord, in your mercy:  
grant to your faithful people pardon and  
peace; that they may be cleansed from all their  
sins, and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end. **Amen**

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### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*(page 4, blue service book)*

Reading:

Jeremiah 31:7 – 9 *(p. 761, pew Bible)*

Psalms 126

**The Lord has done great things for us, and we  
are glad.**

**Hymn 394**

Let all the world in every corner sing

Gospel:

Mark 10:46b – 52

Sermon, Creed, Intercessions, Peace

**Hymn 376** I heard the voice of Jesus say

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**LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*(page 7, blue service book)*

**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 We use prayer (c) on page 30:

Communion **“Loving God, ...”**

**Hymn 186** Tell out, my soul

Blessing and Dismissal

***We pray especially today for***  
Grace Lancaster and Linda Grant

***Dear Friends and people of God,***

I do have my struggles with the healing stories in the Gospels. I do not want to leap to metaphor too quickly, when it is clear in the Gospels that Jesus cared about the physical, embodied lives of everyone he met. But I also do not want to hold out false hope to anyone — including those who are ill in my family, among my friends, among our congregation, or who suffer unspeakably throughout the world.

This week's Gospel reading features a healing story — the healing of the blindness of Bartimaeus. And it is a beautiful and layered story.

To the seeing eyes of the surrounding crowds, the blind man by the roadside is invisible, and therefore expendable. When the invisible one dares to speak out, the only thing to do is to shut him up. But once Jesus opens the crowds' eyes

to Bartimaeus' full humanity, they cannot but respond with compassion: 'Take heart; get up; he is calling you.'

In his blindness, Bartimaeus sees what the crowd does not. He calls Jesus 'Son of David,' a title Jesus does not make public during his ministry, and even his closest followers so often fail to see.

When Bartimaeus encouraged to step forward, he 'throws off his cloak' and approaches Jesus. A cloak is both a beggar's covering and his livelihood. What trust Bartimaeus must have in Jesus by the end of this story — deep enough to enable him to cast aside what is most familiar and safe, in exchange for healing and following 'a way' that is new, and full of uncertainty.

I love that Jesus asks Bartimaeus to articulate his heart's desire. In one sense, it is a bizarre question. But Jesus asks, anyway. He does not reduce Bartimaeus to his blindness. *What is in your heart?* It is at once a lovely and a terrifying question. It calls for radical honesty. Radical vulnerability. Radical trust.

One of my deepest desires is for a healing of the nations and of all creation. And of course there are people in my life, individuals whom I know and love and whom God knows and loves, for whom I deeply desire healing and peace. What do I do with the fact that Jesus sometimes heals 'immediately' in the Gospel stories, but not here?

For now, I will cry my desires out to Jesus. I do this because I believe Jesus wants me to. 'What do you want me to do for you?' In his compassion, Jesus will not stop asking. And in my need, I will not stop telling him. And await the fulfilment that is to come, whenever that may be, whatever it may look like.

***With all my love and prayers: Andi***

## **Coming up:**

**All Souls Eucharist** at St. John's next Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November, at 10.00am: please write on the sheet at the back of church the names of those you would wish to be remembered at that service.

**All Souls evening service** at Holy Trinity, Melrose next Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at 6.30pm, including a devotional performance of Fauré's Requiem

**Advent Study Group** starts on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November after midweek communion (for four weekly sessions).

**Advent Carol Service** at Holy Trinity, Melrose on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

**AGM** after Eucharist on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Christmas Carol Service** (to be confirmed) on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, in the afternoon.

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Priest-in-Charge

**Rev. Andi Hofbauer** 07543 104591 andihofb@gmail.com

General enquiries

**Paul Beck** stjohnsjedburgh@outlook.com

**Charity Number SC016786 CCLI licence no. 525395**

**[www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk)**

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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.*

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