

Notices for Sunday 18th October 2020

Ponteland Methodist Church

Minister – Rev Jona Sewell (Tel. 822057)

LET THE LOVE OF JESUS BE KNOWN

29th in Ordinary Time // One Eternal Sacrifice // One World Week

MESSAGE FROM JONA

This week's reading is Matthew 22:15-22, I encourage you to stop and read it now. It seems to me that the heart of this passage are the words of Jesus, "give to God what is God's." The inevitable question that follows such a statement is, what is God's?

The psalmist answers this question when proclaiming, "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who dwell in it." (Ps 24:1)

I wonder, if we saw everything and everyone as belonging to God (rather than to us or to someone else), then how would this change how we treat each other? How would it change how we treat the environment and the earth's resources? How would it change how we use our resources?

If God has given everything then that includes the very life within us, so how do we give that back to God as Jesus commanded? I believe the witness of the disciples is that we give back to God by seeking to follow and trust Jesus as best we can - even if that is sometimes flawed! I believe it's about saying our purpose is not to be self-seeking or to glorify ourselves, but to seek God first and glorify Him. Let's be honest, this isn't easy to do because, as human beings, we're prone to look no further than our own lives and immediate surroundings. It requires momentary awareness and choice on our part, as well a deep ongoing transformation by the Spirit. Change of understanding and living doesn't happen overnight but we must be committed in the long term to allow ourselves to be changed over time.

Take time to reflect on these challenges.

Rev Jona Sewell

TRAIDCRAFT

A reminder that **this Sunday (18th)** is the last date for placing Traidcraft Orders.

Bev

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting of the Pastoral Committee on **Monday 9th November at 7:30pm**. It will be held via 'Zoom' and details of how to access the meeting will be sent round nearer the time. If any pastoral visitor does not have access to Zoom, but would like to be included in the meeting, please let me know. Thanks,

Bev

DOUGLAS AND BARBARA HOGG

Douglas and Barbara Hogg wish to thank everyone who has enquired after them and sent messages of love and support. They are being well cared for by their son Adrian and family and send their best wishes to everyone at church.

Bev

CORNERSTONE

The November edition should be available from **Sunday 1st November**. Please forward any material for inclusion to Andy by **Friday 23rd October**. His contact details are :-

Andrew73anderson@gmail.com or telephone 01661 871844

Geoff

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council are meeting via 'Zoom' on **Thursday 22nd October at 7.30pm**. Details of how to join the meeting will be sent out this week

Geoff

LECTIONARY

**Exodus 33 : 12-23, Psalm 99,
1 Thessalonians 1 : 1-10, Matthew 22 : 15-22.**

The following questions are from today's Lectionary using the NIV version:-

- 1) Whose portrait is on the back of the denarius coin?
- 2) Two countries are mentioned in which all their believers are welcomed with a message of joy given by the Holy Spirit. What are they?

You will find the answers on the back page.

PRAYERS

Lift up our souls, O God, to the glory of your presence; our minds to the beauty of your being and our hearts to the purity of your love; now and for ever.

Amen

God of Grace and Love, embodied in time and space, we glimpse your glory in the living Word of Christ and the dancing fire of your Spirit. In the light of your presence you call us to open our eyes to the gift of your good creation and to take delight in all that you have made; may we be truly thankful, truly happy and truly responsible as we step lightly upon the hallowed earth. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

If we are ill, strengthen us. If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good, See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer, the one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days.

Amen

Help us, O Lord, to conquer all harshness of judgement with your gentleness; to quench all meanness of spirit with your generosity and to defeat all indifference of compassion with your fervour. Teach us to be courageous in loving, patient in suffering and attentive in prayer; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Creator God, in our island home you have given us an abundance of beauty. The sea that surrounds us, the hills and the glens, all of this is your gift to us. Help us to be good stewards of all that you have provided.
May we be a gift to the communities in which you have placed us as we witness to the truth that every place and every time is yours. In an age of change, help us to see what we can do to make a difference in your world. In a world where people are fearful, help us to spread your message of hope and never forget that the earth is yours.

Amen

**Please send your notices to Geoff Lisle by next Friday, 1pm.
Either by phone:- 01661 822532, by post:- 42, Ridgely Drive. NE20 9BL
or by E-mail :- Geoffandangela@btinternet.com**

Bible Quiz Answers:- 1) Caesar's (Matthew 22:21)
2) Macedonia and Achaia (1 Thessalonians 1:7)