

Notices

Good morning and a very warm welcome to you all, whether you are at home, or you are here with us at Tyndale, a regular attendee, or a visitor, you are all very welcome.

Our Communion Service this morning is being taken by our minister Michael Docker. Michael, we thank you for leading our worship and look forward to spending this time together.

The notices for this week include our Tuesday Coffee Shop, which is held here in the sanctuary, from 10am until 12noon. Do come along and enjoy refreshments and conversation as we open our doors to the local community and enjoy time together.

Time@tyndale on Wednesday is being held here in the sanctuary, with the doors opening at 7.30pm for refreshments as usual. The topic for the evening is going to be COP26 and will be led by Ian Holyer. Do join us, for what will be a very interesting and no doubt informative evening.

On Thursday morning at 11 am we have our online coffee shop time. The details are on the church website for those of you who are free and able to join in this time of conversation.

Lastly, a notice from Nick Parsons, the copy deadline for the next edition of the Link is next Sunday, the 14th November. Please do get any items you wish to go in the Link to Nick by then.

Thank you

Welcome

Welcome, whether you're here in the church, on-line or following the script – welcome as together, gathered out of a mixed and conflicted world, we worship.

'Beauty for brokenness'

Graham Kendrick

Call to Worship

In a broken world, we come seeking God's beauty; in a world full of suffering, despair and destruction, we come seeking hope; in a world ravaged by greed, plundered and poisoned by carelessness, we come seeking God's gift of hope and peace, in a world shot through with glory and goodness we come with thankful hearts, once more to seek God's way in Christ, and in His name, to praise.

BPW68 Praise to the Lord, the almighty

Prayer

Lord, King of creation, our health and salvation; ruling and reigning, gently sustaining; we pray and praise you for the love that flows to us, the love that makes the world, the love that keeps the world through Christ – Lord, whose goodness and mercy fills our lives; who has given us a good world, who has given us Christ, who has called us to live by faith, who has saved, is saving, will save in Christ – whose goodness and faithfulness are sure; whose mercy knows no bounds, whose peace is everlasting – we praise and worship you.

Lord, all this we believe in a world that runs with greed and destruction and waste and pollution; a world in which much that is good is spoiled and broken, in which much that is beautiful is marred and disfigured, in which many struggle to survive, in which injustice stalks and climate changes and riches reach fewer and fewer people and more and more people fall – this is the world which your love has given and that we have spoiled; forgive us and restore us and call us again to believe and show your love in Christ as we live to mend the world

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

We praise as we sing about God's Kingdom: a song that rings with the themes of grace, mercy, compassion and hope – a song that we sing in this world with all its broken hopes and dreams with so many of its troubles brought into focus during COP 26 - and as we praise we are bid not just to put our hope in earthly things, but to lift our eyes and hearts to the source of all hope..

'Hear the call of the Kingdom'

Stuart Townend, Keith Getty & Kristyn Getty

Reading [Micah 4:1-4](#)

And with that glorious, hopeful, ancient vision in the words of the prophet before us, we turn once again to sing – a song of regret at what has been spoilt and determination to live for justice – and of

hope in God

'We will not take what is not ours'

Reading [John 6:35-59](#)

Sermon

Lord we give you this time; speak truth through these words; breathe by your Spirit into all our thoughts and move us to decide once again to seek the things of your Kingdom

How? Ask the detractors of Jesus in John's gospel (they were Jews – religious leaders - but given the tragic history of anti-Semitism that seems to have its roots in just such words as these let's just call them 'the 'detractors of Jesus')

How? How can this son of Joseph, this Galilean, give us his flesh to eat?

How? How can this tired old world, with all its pollution and destruction, with its global warming and changing climate ever be filled with the life of God?

How? Look around...look at yourselves...look at your loved ones...read the stories of destroyed communities, nations threatened with rising sea levels,

home owners reduced to tears by floods, people in Madagascar starving after severe drought; glaciers & permafrost melting; rain forests being cut down – on & on

The stories that lead to Cop 26, with all its double-speak, managed expectations, breakthroughs, gaffes, failures and successes

Look at them all.

And as we come to take communion during COP 26, put yourselves alongside the detractors of Jesus & say 'how?'

They take everything literally, the detractors of Jesus – as often they do in John's gospel. They're like us; they're 'of the earth'

How?

Jesus doesn't answer the question. He just replies '*Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day;*

And '*unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you*'.

I imagine this passage is fundamental in a Roman Catholic understanding of the Mass – transubstantiation – bread *literally* becoming the body of Christ

But never mind that –

I suppose that's a kind of answer, but I don't think any answer to the 'how?' question really works – there's no answer that would do - not to the 'how can we eat?' question, nor to the 'why must I suffer?' question, nor to the 'what does any of this mean?' question

The answer, the meaning, in fact, to any of the questions that rise in the throats of human beings in the mire of this world is – to live by faith

That's why we must take communion, during Cop 26 or at any time; it's a way of looking to Jesus - and we dare to say, in this world, to the anxious teenagers, the worried climate scientists, the conflicted politicians, the uncaring polluters and the confused consumers and to ourselves – we are all detractors of Jesus in this scenario –

To them all – to ourselves, we dare to say, and to hear, that the only place worth looking is to Jesus

and he's teaching and healing, and he's getting alongside the most unlovely people, and he's hanging on a cross, and he's bursting from an empty tomb – and he's giving of himself – his flesh and blood,

And he's a sign – of service, sacrifice, death and eternal life – a sign that answers the how, why and what of this human existence.

We gather here, like the detractors of Jesus, confronted by the claims of Jesus to be the Bread of Heaven. Perhaps we're asking 'how?', but we are called to believe in him, to learn of his ways and to serve and love as he served and loved – and not just to look to him as if he were just some kind of example,

But to *eat and drink of Him* – to 'take Christ to ourselves'.

In this world – in the midst of COP 26 - to take Christ to ourselves and in doing so to look to God's peaceable kingdom, of justice, fairness, peace – and, we may imagine, of clean air and sparkling water and no pollution – put so beautifully in the words of the prophet Micah

'they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid;

and then we are called to live by faith in that Kingdom and to do everything to make this world *like* that Kingdom and to trust that that Kingdom is coming...is coming –
And then and only then will we know the truth of Christ's promise of eternal life – and I will raise them up on the last day..

Words of Offering

Lord, we come to you once more, with our hearts and minds open to the ways in which we have failed to live for your Kingdom and our spirits ready to move from ways of destruction to ways of justice and peace. And as ever, Lord, we would be drawn closer to Christ, who is our life; so we give of ourselves in these and all our gifts and in this bread and wine – the things of earth. As we offer them we look to their transformation into heavenly things – indeed, the things of your Kingdom.

Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore, Amen.

At COP26 many continue to wrestle with the difficult conundrums of moving the economy and cultures of a whole world from destructive, wasteful ways to sustainable life-giving ways, for the sake of the ever-closer future. Some have to be dragged towards such change, others are frustrated at the slowness of change; some resist change altogether; others use good words and have fine intentions; many look on anxiously; many are suffering now. In the midst of all this complexity, with our own hopes, dreams and confusions, we turn in song to the simplest Way of all – and prepare to take that Way – indeed, to take Christ – to ourselves again..:

BPW202 Jesus the Lord said 'I am the bread'

Communion

Invitation

The table of the Lord is spread, it is for those who will come and see in broken bread and poured out wine – not mere symbols, but the very substance of his life shed for us on the Cross and raised again the third day. The risen Christ is present among his people and it is here that we meet him. It is for those who know him a little and long to know him more - the invitation is for all those who are seeking him and who are weary of their sin and doubt to come and share the feast.

Confession

How shall I repay the lord for all his benefits to me? I will take the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Lord our God, we confess our part in a world of greed, injustice, poverty and destruction – of body, mind and spirit – a world in which many lives are destroyed by our thoughtless actions..

We confess our part in a Christian faith slow to mind its own failings and quick to condemn the failings of others.

We confess the effects of sinfulness in ourselves and the weakness of our resolve to love.

Father forgive us and bring us through this act into a fresh awareness of your grace, so that we may apprehend the true cost and glory of the gospel – in the lamb who was slain who is alive for evermore.

Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you; the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said, take, eat, this is my body which is for you, do this in remembrance of me. In the same way after supper he took the cup saying this cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this whenever you drink it in memory of me – for whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts, **we lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is not only right, it is our duty and our joy at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord.. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying

Holy Holy Holy, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

God our Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on all your people, that we may have faith, and upon these gifts of bread and wine and this eating and drinking, that this may be for us the mystery of the body and blood of our risen Lord – so that we may receive Christ to ourselves once again, for the strengthening of our faith, the assuring of our hope, and the deepening of our love.

Responses

Leader Here is bread
All **Broken like Christ's body**
Leader Here is wine
All **Poured out like Christ's blood**
Leader How shall we eat in such a world as this?
All **In faith as we take Christ to ourselves.**
Leader How shall we drink in such a world as this?
All **In hope as we take Christ to ourselves**
Leader In the promise of new life in the body and blood of our Lord
All **We eat and drink in faith.**

Bread & Wine

Prayer after communion

Lord, we have offered our gifts, and seen the signs of your love here; may we see it at work in our world.

Lord, we have confessed our failure to live as your redeemed people; may we now live for the world's redemption.

Lord, we have witnessed to the spoiling of the world and heard of the malevolent power of climate change; and recognised the contradictions, confusions, passions and mixed motives at work as the world seeks solutions; may we now put our trust in you once again and resolve to live in this world as those who are in Christ.

Lord, we would stay in step with the Spirit of Christ, so that we may always worship and serve in his name.

BPW593 'Guide me O thou great Redeemer'

Benediction

So may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us and remain with us always, amen.

Thanks everyone who has made today's service possible. We share our thoughts, prayers and best wishes with each other until we meet again.