

The New Town Church of Scotland
Order of Service
4th August, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost – Unity in Service

Gathering music
Welcome

Call to Worship: based on Ephesians 4 (Response of the people in **bold**)

Let us lead a life worthy of the calling
which we follow:

**We cannot do this alone,
we dare not try this alone,
so we gather as God's people.**

Let us lead a life worthy of our calling,
a life filled with service and meekness:

**We come to build up Christ's Body,
in humility and gentleness,
with patience and love.**

Let us lead a life which reflects our calling,
that life of peace grounded in the Spirit:

**We rejoice in our oneness in Christ;
we would share the grace offered to us.**

Let us live a life worthy of the calling
which we follow:

**We gather as God's family
at the Table prepared for us,
waiting to be fed by the God of life.**

Hymn: CH4 173 Sing to God new songs of worship

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

The Peace: The Peace of Christ be with you
and also with you
(Let us share peace with one another)

Hymn: CH4 510 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Short introduction to the Readings

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4 v 1-16 (NRSVA)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

⁹ (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended^[a] into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Scripture Reading: Mark 6 v 30-44

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. 31 He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. 33 Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. 34 As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

35 When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' 37 But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' 38 And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' 39 Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And all ate and were filled; 43 and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Hymn: CH4 197 As we are gathered, Jesus is here (sing twice – stay seated)

Sermon:

Hymn: CH4 527 Lord, make us servants of your peace (O Waly, Waly)

Prayers of the People

Hymn: CH4 198 let us build a house where love can dwell

Blessing

Worship leader: Mrs Fiona Devoy

Reader: Kate Anderson

Prayers of the people: Mary Scott

Musician: David Stewart

Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland. Charity SC008990