



**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : [www.holycrossedinburgh.org](http://www.holycrossedinburgh.org)**

**Congregational e-news for the Third Sunday of Easter 26 April**

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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## **WORSHIP**

Eucharist will be celebrated for your intentions on Sundays at Holy Cross and Wednesdays at the Church or Rectory at 10.30am. Please join me in spirit then. Whenever I celebrate in the Church I'll ring the bell.

A video of this Sunday's Eucharist will appear on our Facebook page at 10.00am and is available on the Holy Cross YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOMx7vyWrYg>

On Thursdays at 5pm we meet online on Zoom to say Evening Prayer. All the words are provided. This started last week and worked well, if you want to join us email me on [rector.hce@gmail.com](mailto:rector.hce@gmail.com) and I will send you an invitation which will enable you to join in on your computer (it needs to have a camera). It is easy to join us!

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) Sunday Eucharist is celebrated by Bishop Kevin Pearson this Sunday at 11am and may be viewed online on Facebook, YouTube & the SEC website here: <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/online-worship-with-bishop-kevin-pearson/>

Look out for some Gaelic!

## **I. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER**

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

With the lockdown set to continue for quite a bit longer we are settling into a new pattern of worship which I have outlined above. Thank you for your comments and feedback so I know which helps to worship and which things in this e-news you value most. Even in virtual worship I'm pleased to say that things can go wrong. It was very funny when a member of the congregation came into the Church to use the toilet on Saturday afternoon when I was half-way through recording our Sunday Eucharist video!



The Church grounds are looking beautiful and I know that many of you are really missing Holy Cross and our worship together. However good we are at doing things online, it is not the same. I was looking at a hymn book in the Church last week when I saw a quote from the late Jim Thomson pasted in the front, "there is nothing to beat the organ full out, a full church and a good hymn". This is true and may we all experience it as soon as it is safe to do so!

I hope you are keeping well and it is good to hear how you are all keeping in touch with each other and your families. One of the sad things about this time is that we can't see our loved ones – many are missing hugs, missing seeing parents or children and missing playing with their grandchildren. Another sadness is inspired by the fear of the virus. Edinburgh people are generally doing well at social distancing (it is part of our stereotype) but a potentially fatal disease is all around us. It is like the old days of plague. The Church has lived through many similar times in its history and our Litany prays: “from plague, pestilence and famine... Good Lord deliver us!” Prayer is effective, not only to call on God to intervene but to help us cope with the stresses of this time.

May God bless you and yours, ask if you need anything, and, as before, I end with Jesus' words which we used on our last Sunday together at Holy Cross, 'love your neighbour and do not be afraid'. Keep safe and may we meet again soon!

With love in Christ,



### **Pastoral Team**

If anyone needs help while self-isolating or shielding, please contact me or one of our pastoral team:

- Alan Kirkpatrick (07891 237940 or [muttley.l@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:muttley.l@blueyonder.co.uk))
- Helen Smith (07917 695491 or [Helgillard@yahoo.com](mailto:Helgillard@yahoo.com) )
- Angela Gardner (07703 443291 or [angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk](mailto:angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk) )

### **Helping your Church**

Holy Cross, like most churches, is losing income during the crisis and will need to spend a lot soon to obtain a new heating system. If you would like to make a donation via online banking or set up a standing order the Church's bank details are: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort code 83-18-47; Account number 00170278; Account name: Church of the Holy Cross).

Colin, our Treasurer, says: “thank you very much to those of you who have set up new standing orders, increased existing standing orders, donated via the 'Just Giving' link on the web site, sent cheques or made direct payments to the Church account.”

The Virgin Money Giving Button on our website is found: [HERE](#)

## **2. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GOD**

This Sunday's Gospel is that great story of the discouraged disciples meeting the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. We notice how they recognise him in the breaking of the bread and the Scriptures but it is also significant that they don't recognise him at first – in paintings he is often given a hat with a big floppy brim like a damp cowboy.



We might meet Jesus any day and we are called to be Christ to each other: “when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me” (Matthew 25:40). This is a time when there are many acts of kindness, even something as simple as a phone call or an email. Our faith is about prayer, the cross and resurrection but it is also about love and kindness (if you think about it, they are all aspects of the same thing). There was a lovely video from the Head Teacher of Davidson’s Mains Primary School for the children at the end of their holiday telling them above all to be kind. By doing this we keep in touch with God just as much as when we pray.

Information about ways to help during this crisis and local groups can be found here:

Volunteer Edinburgh: <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/covid-19/>

EVOC: <https://www.evoc.org.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

### 3. PRAYER & READINGS

These are offered so we can stay together in our prayers even if we can’t meet together. The collects and readings are those that are used in Church at the Eucharist & Daily Prayer.

Choose which ones you want to use and don’t feel any obligation to do everything! If we do use even some of them we know we are part of a big community, all meditating on the same bits of the Bible each day and all praying in the same way. This can be a consolation when we are isolated.

All the readings for the whole year can be downloaded by clicking on this link:

<https://www.osp.org.uk/worship/calendar-lectionary/>

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – 26 April

- *Collect:* Almighty Father, in your great mercy you gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 2.14a, 36-41 ; I Peter 1.17-23 ; Luke 24.13-35
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all consumed with worry. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; the Scottish Episcopal Institute: Principal, the Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson ; Director of Studies, the Revd Dr Mike Hull ; and its Students.

#### Monday 27 April – Albert Laurie, Priest, of Old St Paul’s, 1937

*Canon Laurie was at Old St Paul’s for nearly fifty years and led heroic pastoral work among the poor of the Old Town while living a life of austerity and prayer. He had an intense devotion to the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and in the poor.*

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 18:1-27 ; I Peter 5.1-14 ; Matthew 1:1-17; 3:1-6

- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Helen A; Graeme H), families with children at home and our local schools, Old St Paul's. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: Holy Trinity, Melrose, Fr Pip Blackledge, and their work with the local foodbank.

## **Tuesday 28 April**

- *Daily Readings*: Exodus 19.1-16 ; Colossians 1.1-14 ; Matthew 3.7-12
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Andy; Eric T) and our plans for new heating at Holy Cross; those worried about their jobs, businesses & financial situation. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: The Robin Chapel; Work Place Chaplains in Edinburgh; David Todd and Theatre Chaplaincy; Chaplains to Cadet Units; Sally Mair and Cursillo in Scotland.

## **Wednesday 29 April – Catherine of Siena, Mystic & Doctor of the Church, 1380**

*Catherine was a Mystic and a Tertiary (lay associate) of the Dominican Order. She advised many and had a political influence unusual for a non-royal woman in medieval Europe, for example working tirelessly for peace between the city states and causing the Pope to return from Avignon to Rome.*

- *Daily Readings*: Exodus 19.16-25 ; Colossians 1.15-23 ; Matthew 3.13-17
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Beth McG; Mike H), those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church, the Lay Dominican Group at St Albert's, Edinburgh. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: All on diocesan committees, Claire Benton-Evans and youth and children's ministry in the diocese, Edinburgh ordinands.

## **Thursday 30 April**

- *Daily Readings*: Exodus 20.1-21 ; Colossians 1.24-2.7 ; James 1:1-12 (or Matthew 4.1-11)
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Lucy) and those who have died (Peter Shaw), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: All clergy with Commissions, Warrants and Permission to Officiate in the Diocese; Retired Clergy, including our own Revd Douglas K (and Arabella) and Bishop Bob H; Clergy widows; All retired and elderly people, especially those suffering in the present crisis.

## **Friday 1 May – SS Philip and James, Apostles**

*There are a number of Jameses in the NT. This is James the Less, son of Alphaeus and not the brother of John or the brother of the Lord; little is known about him. Philip was from Bethsaida in Galilee, was called by Jesus (Jn 1:45) and said to him, 'show us the Father, and that will be enough for us' (John 14:8).*

- *Eucharist Readings*: Isaiah 30.18-21 ; Ephesians 1.3-10 ; John 14.1-14
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Margaret M; Andrew), and those who live around us especially those shielding and self-isolating; for all workers. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: Bishop John; St Mary's Cathedral, Revv John Conway, Marion Chatterley, Andy Philip, Paul Foster; for the choir and St Mary's Music School.

## **Saturday 2 May** - St Athanasius of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, 373

*Athanasius was the Pope of Alexandria and supported the first monks in Egypt. He defended the divinity of Christ against the followers of Arius and stood firm in the faith against the power of the Emperor.*

- *Daily Readings:* Exodus 25.1-22;(28.1-4,30-38); Colossians 3.1-17; Matthew 4.18-25
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Molly; Isobel W-I); those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; Rev Dan and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Ninian's, Comely Bank and the V Revd Frances Burberry; Fettes College and its chaplain, Revd Tony Clark

## **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 3 May**

- *Collect:* Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 2.42-47 ; 1 Peter 2.19-25 ; John 10.1-10
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Jennie C; Nancy M); Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; St Margaret's, Easter Road and Fr Colin Reed, all who are missing attending the St Margaret's Parent and Toddler Groups.

## **4. HYMN OF THE WEEK : O Thou who this mysterious bread, Charles Wesley**

O Thou who this mysterious bread  
didst in Emmaus break,  
return, herewith our souls to feed  
and to thy followers speak.

Unseal the volume of thy grace,  
apply the gospel word;  
open our eyes to see thy face,  
our hearts to know the Lord.

Of thee communing still, we mourn  
till thou the veil remove;  
talk with us, and our hearts shall burn  
with flames of fervent love.

Enkindle now the heavenly zeal,  
and make thy mercy known,  
and give our pardoned souls to feel  
that God and love are one.

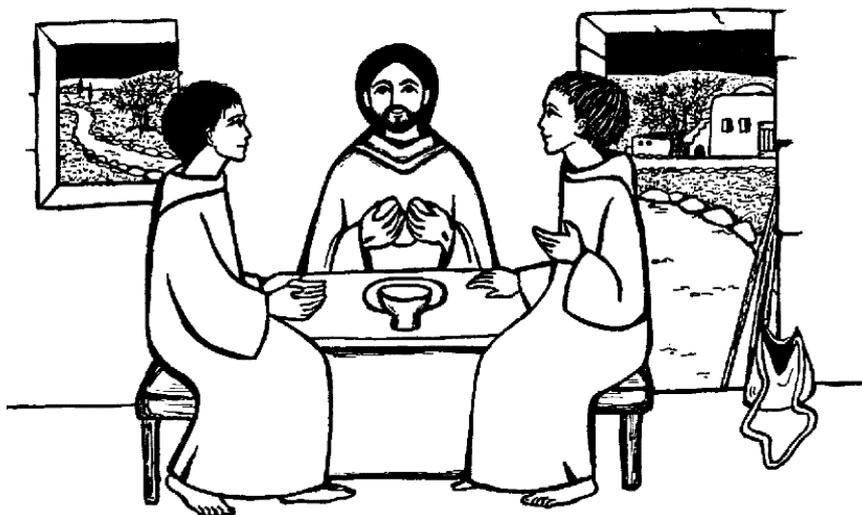
Each Sunday in normal times we meet at Holy Cross to celebrate the Eucharist. We hear the words of the Bible and meet Jesus under the veil of Word and Sacrament. We can't do this now but perhaps we still think about it. These things we do in Church, hearing Scripture and breaking Bread, are the way Jesus gradually revealed himself to the bewildered disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). In this hymn, sung in this Sunday's Holy Cross worship video, Charles Wesley explores this Bible story. In a typically Methodist way, he is interested in our response to the way Jesus reveals himself: in the hymn we feed on the Lord, listen to him, see him, and know him, and then our hearts burn with love, for God is Love (1 John 4:8).

"Our hearts shall burn with flames of fervent love". Charles's brother John Wesley described his own conversion as "I felt my heart strangely warmed" and Christians from all traditions can recognise this mystical experience of God in the words of the disciples at Emmaus "did not our hearts burn within us" (Luke 24:32). Some Christian traditions are hostile to feelings, but here Wesley prays at the end that our souls might "feel that God and love are one". May we feel this in our hearts.

It is a revelation, literally a removing of a veil to see what is beneath. This veil will finally be removed in heaven but in this life, like the Emmaus disciples, we can have moments of revelation. Moments when we see things as they really are in the eyes of God.

The Emmaus story is the Gospel for this Sunday and I looked for hymns which referred to it. I drew a blank, apart from a few very recent ones, even with the help of the excellent Scriptural index in Church Hymnary 4. Eventually I located this one from Wesley's *Hymns on the Lord's Supper* (1745). Even this hymn, though, only appeared in a popular hymn book in 1969, set to the fine tune St Botolph (used with 'For Mary Mother of our Lord' and 'Jesu the very thought of thee' in our New English Hymnal, numbers 161 and 385).

Why are there so few hymns on the Emmaus story? For most of the history of the Church the Emmaus story was not read on Sundays, only on Monday or Tuesday in Easter Week, so perhaps it did not enter the popular imagination until the new lectionaries from the 1960 placed it before congregations. The Emmaus story is very powerful and captures the imagination (I can still remember acting in a play 'Emmaus Walk' in the 1980s) because it gets to the heart of our faith. It is not just teachings to be believed but doctrines, like that of the resurrection, to be experienced.



**5. AFTERWORD : The Servant Girl at Emmaus (A Painting by Velázquez)**  
**by Denise Levertov (1923–1997)**



She listens, listens, holding  
her breath. Surely that voice  
is his—the one  
who had looked at her, once, across the crowd,  
as no one ever had looked?  
Had seen her? Had spoken as if to her?

Surely those hands were his,  
taking the platter of bread from hers just now?  
Hands he'd laid on the dying and made them well?

Surely that face—?

The man they'd crucified for sedition and blasphemy.  
The man whose body disappeared from its tomb.  
The man it was rumoured now some women had seen this morning, alive?

Those who had brought this stranger home to their table  
don't recognize yet with whom they sit.  
But she in the kitchen, absently touching  
    the winejug she's to take in,  
a young Black servant intently listening,

swings round and sees  
the light around him  
and is sure.