



Order of Service



5 April 2012

Kirknewton 7:30 pm



Worship led by:
Rev Dr André Groenewald
Musicians:
Praise Band

Gathering of God's People

Time when we greet one another and prepare for worship.
Those who are able please stand for the entry of the Bible.
Words of welcome and announcements.

Good evening! How are you! Welcome to this very special service as we celebrate the last Supper of Jesus. I would also like to invite you all to come and have tea with us after the service. Thank you very much Mrs Hope for making this possible. Thank you for Nanda who will be conducting Holy Communion.

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship

Minister: Do not put your trust in princes,

All: in mortal men, who cannot save.

Minister: When their spirit departs, they return to the
ground;

All: on that very day their plans come to nothing.

MP 506 How great Thou art

Opening prayer

The Psalmist says: "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." Let us pray:

Holy God,
you give us this meal of bread and wine
in which we celebrate your great compassion;
grant that we may work with you to fulfil our prayers,
and to love and serve others as Christ has loved us;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Reflecting on God's Word

Reading: Luke 22:7-23 (NT page 1057-1058)

Reader: Chris Graham

MP 515 O love that wilt not let me go

Sermon

The text verses for the sermon are:

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,

¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks:

Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there.”

The Jewish Feast of Passover was technically followed immediately by the Feast of Unleavened Bread; but because pilgrims made one trip to Jerusalem to celebrate both of them, they had become a single entity. Representatives from each family would have the priests slaughter a lamb for them in the temple, then return with it to feed the whole family that night.

Anyone with a two-story home in those days, with the second floor of which contained a “large” upper room, would be considered well-to-do. This family presumably resided in the Upper City of Jerusalem, near the temple, rather than the poorer Lower City. Because the Passover had to be eaten within Jerusalem’s walls, most homes would be crowded with guests; but the accommodations for Jesus’ last meal with his disciples would be quite adequate .

To us the request of Jesus seems a bit strange. I mean how on earth will the disciples know that they have the right man carrying water. What if all men decides to carry some form of water, how will they know?

Well to us this will be strange because we live in a totally different world. In those days men didnae carry water jars at all. It was regarded as a task done by women. So it would have been quite easy for the disciples to spot this man carrying water. This man would have been so different from all the other Jews and I am sure someone that was frowned upon. Nevertheless he was chosen by God for a very special occasion and task.

And I am sure this is the central message of our reading.

To think that a man who did a very strange thing in that society by carrying a jar of water became an important vehicle in the hands of God.

It just shows. God can use anyone – even if you are strange and do things differently. God welcomes everyone into his fellowship. He introduced the last supper as the ceremonial meal to welcome everyone who has faith in him. Everyone is included in His table fellowship. He came to earth to include and bring the sinners in a relationship with God. He died so that the sins of his children can be forgiven. He was resurrected so that His children can have the hope of everlasting life.

If you are feeling lonely and that you do not fit in anywhere: you have found your place. The Lord welcomes you just as you are, wherever you maybe.

Come now and let us share his communion with one another knowing that a stranger is just a friend we do not know!
Amen

Responding to God's word

Our offerings are given for the ministry and mission of the church while we sing "MSP 396: Just as I am".

Communion

Invitation to communion

This is the table,
not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is to be made ready for those who love him
and who want to love him more
So, come,
you who have much faith
and you who have little,
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and you who have failed.

Come,
not because it is I who invite you:
it is our Lord.
It is his will that those who want him
should meet him here.

Let us sing MSP 64

Break Thou the bread of life

The story

Now let us hear the story
of how this sacrament began.

On the night on which Jesus was betrayed
he sat at supper with his disciples.

While they were eating, he took a piece of bread,
said a blessing, broke it and gave it to them with the words,
'This is my body. It is broken for you.
Do this to remember me'

Later, he took a cup of wine, saying,
'This cup is God's new covenant,
sealed with my blood.

Drink from it, all of you, to remember me"

So now, following Jesus' example and command,
we take this bread and this wine,
the ordinary things of the world
which Christ will make special.

And as he said a prayer before sharing,
let us do so too.

Prayer of thanksgiving – Andrew Coutts

Prayer of consecration

For us you were born,

for us you healed,
preached, taught
and showed the way to heaven;
for us you were crucified,
and for us, after death,
you rose again.

Lord Jesus Christ,
present with us now,
for all that you have done
and all that you have promised,
what have we to offer?

Our hands are empty
our hearts are sometimes full of wrong things.
we are not fit to gather up the crumbs
from under your table.

But with you is mercy
and the power to change us.

So as we do in this place
what you did in an upstairs room,
send down your Holy Spirit
on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine
that they may become for us your body,
healing, forgiving
and making us whole;
and that we may become,
for you,
your body,
loving and caring in the world
until your kingdom comes.
Amen

The breaking of the bread & pouring of the wine

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, broke it and said,
“This is my body it is broken for you.”

Gee vir ouderlinge om uit te deel dan as hulle terugkom gee
jy vir hulle en dan hulle vir jou

(Taking the cup of wine)

And later he took the cup of wine and said,

“This is the new relationship with God,
made possible because of my death.

‘Take this – all of you – to remember me.’”

Sharing The Peace

Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
is with us now.

Let us share it with each other saying: may the peace of the
Lord be with you!

MSP 486

Now thank we all our God

Benediction Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

Lord Jesus, when we face difficult decisions,
help us to act responsibly and to act prayerfully.

Give us the courage to stand by you, quietly confident in the
faith that you are as much with us as you were with Peter and
the disciples.

And The blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Be with you all Now and for evermore **Sung Amen**

Please remain standing as The Bible is removed.

Prayer

Holy God,
you give us this meal of bread and wine
in which we celebrate your great compassion;
grant that we may work with you to fulfil our prayers,
and to love and serve others as Christ has loved us;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who is alive with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Notes:

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You are invited to stay for tea and coffee which are served in the hall.