**New Kilpatrick**

**13th November**

**Luke 21:5-19**

**Gathering**

When this day arrives

We wonder what we can do

For peace

For the world

For each other

When this day arrives

We often discover the best we can do is nothing

Just hold silence

Empty the world of words

And find that which is deeper in us all

For only in silence

Can the truth be heard

And the love touched

And the cost recognised

So let us do nothing

And in so doing

Do everything

**Welcome**

Hello, I’m Roddy Hamilton, the minister of New Kilpatrick Parish, and once more thank you for making space for us in your day, so that we can gather, wherever we are, and worship.

It is a unique time, always, in the first half of November, when we do this strange thing of holding silence, nationally. It is a powerful thing. It makes us restless as much as humble, and so today we make silence in our worship, a place to remember and hold each other, stories told and untold, and names, too many of which we can never know, but together they have shaped us and hold us to account, for the place we create today on the cost of their sacrifice.

**Prayer**

Loving God

In the generosity of life

We worship today

Surrounding ourselves

In the stories of others

Letting their lives

Haunt us

And hold us

In remembrance

In the echo of their names

In the retelling of their stories

In the memories we cannot let go

We worship among them today

Alive in their sacrifice

And bring here our hopes

And tangle them together

And let both speak for us today

This is our prayer

And what we give ourselves

Is our confession

Our promise to think beyond ourselves

Towards others

To bring our voice

Into the chorus of others

So no one individual is heard

Asking

Requesting

But as a whole community

And nation

We seek forgiveness for the wars and conflict

The fear and the loss

And in this place

Surrounded by the inglorious hope of peace

We pray for ears to hear

Hearts to hold

And lives to share

In the way others shared their lives for us

So be it

Amen

**Reading Luke 21:5-19**

**5**When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, **6**‘As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’

**7**They asked him, ‘Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?’ **8**And he said, ‘Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, “I am he!” and, “The time is near!” Do not go after them.

**9**‘When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.’ **10**Then he said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; **11**there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

**12**‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. **13**This will give you an opportunity to testify. **14**So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; **15**for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. **16**You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. **17**You will be hated by all because of my name. **18**But not a hair of your head will perish. **19**By your endurance you will gain your souls.

**Reflection**

There is a gift we can give the world today

A gift that has in turn been given to us

It is nothing we have word to describe

Or understand

Nothing we can touch

Nothing tactile

It is nothing we can put on a wish list

Or gift wrap

It is the gift of life

At the cost of sacrifice

There is little that is more costly

Or more worthwhile

Or fragile

And we find it

Receive it

Offer it

In silence

A silence that holds all we cannot say

A silence that holds all we cannot understand

A silence that holds all we cannot measure

This is the gift offered to the world today

And we offer it in hope

Humility

Generosity

And love

**Reflection**

There is much in the bible we imagine is about prophecy and foretelling. We are probably wrong in that. Rather there is much in the Bible that is simply describing the world as it is and offering some hope and encouragement to find our way through.

That is its gift. It speaks from the place we are in. It is not interested in predictions we wish to interpret as end times, of destruction and famine and plague. It is not interested in writing some kind of armageddon faith. There is enough in the real world as it is.

Such passages in the bible, are remembered and retold, because they are an encouragement for those who live through conflict, and uncertainty. These words have lifted and held those who have gone before us, and found the strength, and been offered the hope, that is their companion through such times.

These passages are passages of promise. They describe the real world as it is, and as we encounter it. And say… right there, right in the middle of that, is when faith kicks in, when hope comes into its own, when love is asked to pay the price worth paying.

For as long as there are wars and rumours of wars… there will be the need of the poppy… for humanity does not learn quickly… or easily…

In such times… when things fall apart… it is the hope that keeps us together… and today we find that in the poppy… the cornflower… the silence… our remembrance… that we might count the cost and learn… name the names and learn… find the excuses run out and learn.

Such a fragile symbol is all we have between hope and destruction… Let us choose hope…

**News**

Warm Spaces

**Prayers for others**

Creating God

Speaking truth into the world

And letting it expose who we are

May the nations hear it

The call for humanity

The call to learn

The call towards peace

So that

As we pray for all those affected by conflict

Families and communities

Mothers and fathers

We pray that none of us

Let this moment go

Yet feels is depth and cost

We pray for those in conflict now

In Ukraine and Syria

Afghanistan and Yemen

Where propaganda twists the truth

And too many are lost because of the arrogance of too few

We pray for our wider communities

For those needing food banks

Those on waiting lists

Those who feel the cold now

And worry about the price of living

That we create a nation that has learned the cost of war

And invests in peace, and compassion, and justice

And for our families

Those closest to us

Through whom we live

Those ill and those recovering

Those waiting and those grieving

Those anxious and worried

Because of mental or physical ill-health

Loving God

May we come to know you

No longer the God of earthquakes

No longer the God felt in the mighty wind

No longer the powerful fire God

But the still small voice

The silence

The waiting

The hope

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**

**Sung Amen**

**Doxology**