**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**26th March 2023**

**Proverbs 1:20-33**

**Gathering**

O Lady Wisdom

May you bend towards us

With your sage words

And insight of life

May they wrap around us

A caim of protection

A skin to the world

Tactile and generous

Where the words of heaven

Touch the needs of the world

And we encounter beauty

In the tryst

May such a place

Be here

Be now

Be our worship

**Welcome**

Hello… I’m Roddy Hamilton the minister of New Kilpatrick Parish and thank you for the invitation to be together today… We gather round the ancient idea of Wisdom… Not knowledge or cleverness but a way of being in the world… that grows from experience and living beyond self…

The Bible speaks of Lady Wisdom… a feminine partner to God… often masculine… though certainly not exclusively so…

Today… we offer a shorter service… that finds a way to speak of wisdom… and a place to wonder and explore the way of faith…

**Reading**

Wisdom cries out in the street;
    in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out;
    at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

‘How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
    and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
    I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused,
    have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel
    and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;
    I will mock when panic strikes you,

when panic strikes you like a storm,
    and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
    when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
    they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge
    and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

would have none of my counsel,
    and despised all my reproof,

therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
    and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple,
    and the complacency of fools destroys them;

but those who listen to me will be secure
    and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.’

**Reflection**

Wisdom is a woman… hoarse from shouting… common sense to the world… despairing how tone deaf humanity has become with our relationships…

Wisdom is the companion of God… dancing through creation… Love and wisdom go together… not like knowledge and understanding… but more a relationship built on compassion and insight…

For Lady Wisdom is not found in libraries and encyclopaedias… in text books or lectures… in the minds of academics or authors…

Well… she might, but it is not through the accumulation of facts… That is actually the wrong way to wisdom…

Wisdom is about how we relate to each other… to creation and to God… It is a way of being… and reflecting that which gives life to life…

An image of Wisdom… may be an ancient academic hunched over a desk in a gown so old is it almost green… or the white haired, deeply faithful old minister… ready with a friendly word… or a teacher… the one who taught you spelling… and the seven times table…

Or rather… more usefully… the quiet one… who leaves soup on your front step because you’re too bust with a newborn… who lights a candle for you when you seem to be facing some trial on your own… who intuitively ‘gets’ what it must be like… without the vocabulary to explain… unable to answer your questions but knows what you need to carry you through… Wisdom is that relationship…

So why does it feel Wisdom is more like Grizabella the glamour cat… who has had her day… her makeup smudged… her hair pinned back but lost its lustre and its colour is somewhat faded?…

Why does it feel wisdom is spent and tarnished?… in a world that uses intellect and knowledge and information to divide us… There is nothing wise about that… They lead to isolation… competitiveness… anxiety…

Wisdom is rather the relationship we have with justice… truth… human experience… It is knowing what is valuable and important and sensible… She can see beyond the moment… the incident… the problem… and lives in a bigger world… vision… way of being… but she is hoarse from shouting… wondering if she will ever be heard… in a selfish and hedonistic world…

Wisdom is the sage that sees not just the question but invites the adventure that comes from asking the question…

She is the wise one who understands the response is not an economic formula but a daring relationship…

She is the reasoning that recoils from black and white politics and fears not the diversity of colours in between…

Wisdom is God’s partner, companion, presence in the world and seeks to be known in the worried and fear-filled corridors of power offering a deeper relationship… and broader experience with truth, kindness, compassion and love…

And she calls, she calls, she calls… Can anyone hear her?…

**Prayer**

Lady Wisdom

Companion of God

May we wait

And wonder

And seek your beginning

Your first word

Found in that place

Where we meet the creator

The great imagination of life

And begin our journey together

Our adventure

That dances through

That which is poetic

And generous

And open

Diverse and wide

Full of the depth of life

For we cannot afford to circle the wagons

Narrow our doctrine

Restrict its meaning

May we instead

Find you in the experiences of others

In the stories we share

The many understandings of God

The meanings of Christ

The interpretations of scripture

Find wisdom

Belongs to debate and wonder

And found best

In the love of God

The relationship with wonder

The sense that is rarely common

But gifted by the creator

Lady Wisdom

Thank you for the wonder you are

May we live in you

Beyond ourselves

And into the world

Generously

Compassionately

Peacefully

Lovingly

So be it

Amen

**News**

**Blessing**