**New Kilpatrick**

**Podcast**

**12th November 2023**

**Ephesians 2:13-22**

**Gathering**

Let us use fewer words today

And if we can’t

Let us create greater silences

For we need to do something different

To contain all the conflicts

That have broken the hope

Of never again

It is an invisible dream

But today

Let us make the invisible

Visible

In our community

Our faith

Our worship

Hello… I’m Roddy Hamilton… the minister of New Kilpatrick Parish and today we reflect on remembrance… Not an easy moment when there is so much conflict at the moment… but then there always seems to be… and in the middle of it… we make time to stop… and hold silence… and wonder… But the war goes on…

Let us… in that contradiction… one that recognises the reality and the hope… enough that we can never forget… knowing that if we do… we really do show the worst of our inhumanity… In the pain of that… and that truth… we worship…

**Reading: Ephesians 2:13-22**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14**For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, **15**abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, **16**and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. **17**So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, **18**for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19**So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, **20**built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; **21**in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22**in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

**Prayer**

Silent One

Wordless One

Word without words

Space between every word

Holy God

In anything where we can find silence

We find you

Where even for God

Words are too much

And silence not deep enough

To grasp the pain of this day

Conflict all around

And we find silence

And in both we seek you

With our questions

Our fears

Our longings

It is still our hope

It still offers the best of us

This silence

This day

This remembrance

The best of our humanity and hope

That tears through our conflicts

With a heady doze of nobility

Transcendance

Magnificence

Of the sacrifice of others

That convicts us

With our present wars

And without a word being spoken

*Silence*

Forgive us

Renew us

Recreate us

Inspire us

Absolve us

And let light eternal shine

In the wordless moments

**Reflection**

Making the invisible visible.

The truth

The humanity

The light

The hope

The ‘never again’

Visible

The true longing that is not a victory parade

But a community’s sense of loss

Where only silence is our response

A silence for which there are no words

And only the fool would dare to imagine there are

And that anyone is interested in hearing them

That they have something better to say

It is a silence so deep

There is no levelling out

It just goes deeper

Such is the pain contained in it

If it was its length that showed such pain

It would fill countless lifetimes

But we do not expand its length

We just let it go deeper

And deeper

Until no bottom can be found

Maybe if we lengthened our silence

To fill the lives lost

We might realise the true cost

But eventually we need to talk

For peace sake

And hope

And each other

But because it is deep

All we do is dip our toe in it

We hardly know its depth

And the stories it contains

And the pain it holds

But for those few minutes

We attempt to make the invisible visible

Two minutes for our eyes see what we do not want to see

Our ears hear what is so painful to hear

About ourselves

The reason

And the cost

In some way

Small though it is

The poppy makes the invisible visible

The spaces left by those no longer here

Filled with the fragility of the poppy

The poppy remembers

Making the invisible visible

The truth behind the running of the world

The power we hold in arms

And the cost of that

The poppy remembers

And makes the invisible visible

The wrong silence

Instead of talking to each other

We hold silence

And when we should be silent remembering

We make war

The poppy remembers

Making the invisible visible

The names of too many dead

Men women children

Of every nation

Some etched on cenotaphs

So many more left unnamed

The poppy remembers

Making the invisible visible

The real story of why we are here

The search for peace

The sense of hope

The love for another

The invisible, visible

Invisible because it is not yet achieved

Visible briefly in our poppies

The vast cost of so many

Whose sacrifices still count

Still make us urge for peace

Still believe it can be done

Must be done

Working so that what is still invisible

Becomes visible in the world we recreate

**News**

**Prayer**

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

Lets this moment go

Yet feels its depth and cost

We pray for those in conflict now

In Ukraine,

Gaza and Israel

Syria, Sudan, Somalia

Where propaganda twists the truth

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

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**