**New Kilpatrick**

**Sunday 29th October 2023**

**YouTube**

**Matthew 22:34-46**

**Gathering**

Come God

Of every name

And be love between us

In all your diversity

Come Saviour

Baker of bread

Break open between us

At this table

Come Spirit

Energy within

Move between us

And bring us into community

Come world

Of every creed and colour

Belong here

This is a feast for all

Hello, I’m Roddy Hamilton, the minster of New Kilpatrick Parish… and today we find the diversity of God in an invitation to be today round a table of bread and wine… please feel able to provide yourself with some wine and a piece of bread, or juice and oatcake or whatever you feel able to provide for yourself as we share the story of Jesus at the last supper…

A night filled with darkness and rumour… a night of shadows and spirits… eerie in the way something feels like it is unfolding… people are jumpy… there is movement in the shadows… and the suspense is real… the Saviour is preparing a meal, and it is a hallowed e’en of fear and confusion… No Hobgoblin and foul fiend… but a redeemer, a betrayer and us… Let us worship…

**Reading Matthew 22:34-46**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? [a] Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit[b] calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
    until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Reflection**

When you need to find a way through the world, begin at a table.

Begin where the conversation is

Where the storytelling starts

Where you can see the face of your companion and opponent

Begin at a table

And share your story

Mixed with food and drink

And a chance to be heard

And to listen

Begin at a table

It is where we meet Jesus countless times

With disciples

Sinners

Tax collectors

Pharisees

Foreigners

Samaritans

Women

At table, sharing meals

It shapes a new beginning

A challenging place

A place where people fall out and fall in

Make new choices

Do a U-turn in their living

Wash feet

Anoint feet

Turn water into wine

Bread into body

Old into new

And it begins at a table

And the one night

Around Passover

Jesus and disciples were at table again

Stories told

Of blood on doorposts

Sacred Signs and deathly angels

Sacrificial lambs

Unleavened bread

Ancient tales

Now made new

In a supper that was his last

Unleavened Bread is now about giving of self

Wine now a new covenant, a new relationship

A fresh start

And is it not at such a table

Filled with promise

Costly promise

That we might begin anew today

In the world

All she needs

Is here

Bread for the hungry

The promise of giving of self for the other

Wine: a sign of a new promise

A new way to be in the world

That shapes a peace

The world

Is desperately lacking

And cannot give

But it is here

Right here

This table

Is not fenced

Is not limited to only believers

Is not only for members

Is not only for adults

Or only those who understand

Because no one does

Don’t let anyone kid you they do

It is open

Generous

Limitless

Is found anywhere there is a table

And everywhere there is hunger

For peace

Therefore be warned

It is a dangerous for those who like empire

Who prefer might

Who seek conflict

Who hate their enemy

Who group think

Who live easily with prejudice

Poverty

Power

To turn the world round

Begin here

With bread and wine

A story and a promise

A table and a friend

Who begins the story

By giving himself

*Holy holy holy god of power and might*

*Heaven and hearth are full of your glory*

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest*

*Blessed is the one who comes in the name off the Lord*

*Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest*

**Prayer**

Loving God

In the here and the now

We gather here and now

Round the table in the here and now

A real table

In a real world

Surrounded by real problems

And in the midst of them all

We find a feast

Of bread

And wine

Of a story of giving

Self

And giving

Completely

In such a story

We find ourselves

May we gather round the promise here

And enact it yet again

For it is a gift here and now

For the world here and now

Loving God

How might we share

How might we give of self

How might we make a place for all

How might we love

How might we give away these gifts

How might we offer peace

For all of these things

All of them

Are here

In bread and wine

Sharing food with the hungry and justice with the least

Giving of self so that another might live

Making a place for all, excluding no one through prejudice or fear

Loving creation and each image of God in creation

Giving away what we have rather than holding on to what we’ve got

And offering peace, made because we can do these things

All here

All now

May we choose to live here

And now

Sharing everything the world needs

Here and now

**Fraction**

On the night he was betrayed

Jesus took bread and broke it

Saying: My body broken for you

Eat of it all of you

And remember me

Again, he took the cup

Lifted it and said, the new covenant sealed in my blood

Drink of it all of you

And remember me

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

Grant us your peace

Let us together

Take the meal before us

And enjoy them as one community together

And eat and drink of this meal together

For we are all invited together

To be together

Here and now

The gifts of God for the people of God

**Peace**

Where nothing needs to be said

Because it is already said

And we find in that silence

Space for everyone

To grow and be who they are

Each part of the diverse image of God

That is God’s Peace

And it is ours to share with the world

Let us begin by sharing it with each other

**News**

**Prayers for Others**

From the table to the world

From the peace of this place to the conflicts beyond us

Hear us

For we weep for the world

And are angry

Please, O God,

Let this bread and wine mean something

From the table to the world

May we break bread for Palestinian and Israeli

Ukrainian and Russian

Syrian and Iranian

Sudanese and Yemeni

Too many

Who hunger for peace and justice

From the table to the world

May we take the wine of promise

A new covenant between heaven and earth

And invite world leaders to drink

Of the cup of righteousness

For the sake of ceasefires

For the sake of children

For the sake of our future

For the sake of our humanity

From the table to the world

And the world closer to home

For the poor who remain poor

For the homeless who remain homeless

For the least who remain the least

And the powerful who keep their power

The wealthy who keep their wealth

For the privileged who keep their privilege

And the imbalance in our communities and morals that maintains

From the table to the world

May we move our prayers

From here into the world

From words to action

From here and now

To there and then

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**

**Sung Amen**

**Doxology**