



POLBETH HARWOOD
& WEST KIRK OF CALDER



**Joint service with Currie Kirk,
Polbeth Harwood linked with West
Kirk of Calder
27th June 2021
10.00 am**

Worship led by Rev Dr's André, Jonanda Groenewald and
Heather Merriman (Family worker @ Juniper Green and Currie Kirk)
Music from Harry Thomson



Worshipping God Together

Call to worship: (Psalm 145:3)

The Lord is great and is to be highly praised;
his greatness is beyond understanding.

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God,

you are always calling people to spread your love and share your word with others.

You call ordinary people to do the most unexpected things.

You need so many people to do your work here on earth.

Help us always to be ready to listen to your call,

and to know that you will give us the gifts, courage, energy and enthusiasm to do the things you need us to do.

Help us to overcome the worries, doubts and anger that Jonah had,

and to be ready to respond to your call like the disciples did when Jesus called them to follow him.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus who taught us to pray: *Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory for ever. Amen.*

Hymn Jesus Love is very wonderful

Jesus' love is very wonderful, Jesus' love is very wonderful,
Jesus' love is very wonderful, O, wonderful love!

So high, you can't get over it, so low, you can't get under it,
So wide, you can't get around it, O, wonderful love!

Jesus' love is very wonderful, Jesus' love is very wonderful,
Jesus' love is very wonderful, O, wonderful love!

So deep you can't go through it, so long you can't see the end of it,
So strong you can't resist it, oh, wonderful love!

Jesus' love is very wonderful, Jesus' love is very wonderful,
Jesus' love is very wonderful, O, wonderful love!

So bright you have to see it, so loud you have to hear it,
So sweet you have to taste it, Oh wonderful love!

Reflecting on God's Word

Bible Reading: Jonah 1: 1-17

Jonah flees from the Lord

¹ The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² 'Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.'

³ But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

⁴ Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶ The captain went to him and said, 'How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.'

⁷ Then the sailors said to each other, 'Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.' They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, 'Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?'

⁹ He answered, 'I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.'

¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, 'What have you done?' (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, 'What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?'

¹² 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea,' he replied, 'and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.'

¹³ Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the Lord, 'Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.' ¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

Jonah's prayer

¹⁷ Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Sermon

Wide, wide as the ocean

Wide, wide as the ocean, high as the heaven above;
Deep, deep as the deepest sea is my Savior's love.
I, though so unworthy, still am a child of His care;
For His Word teaches me that His love reaches me everywhere.

Contemporary Lesson

If after all that, you still think the story of Jonah is a fishy tale,
have a wee look at this!

Video clip

Once again a man was swallowed by whale, and then spat out again! But this time in 2021!

But the stories in the Bible are not there to teach us anything about science, geography or biology – it's there to teach us important life lessons. Lessons about faith, love, relationships, and how to live life.

These stories take us from darkness into the light. Just like the man in the news clip, and Jonah, were in the deep darkness, but eventually their stories ended with them seeing the light, the stories about God and his relationship with people in the Bible, can also take us from darkness into light.

So let's read our Bibles this summer, so that we can understand life a little better, and live in the light of God.

May the late light nights, remind you all that God's love for us is like a light that never stops shining.

Amen

Prayers for others

Creator God,

thank you for a faith that is
more of an adventure than a declaration,
more of a journey than an arrival,
more of a question than an answer.

May we live within the dynamism of belief
that takes us and shares with us
experiences yet unknown,
that opens our eyes to what is yet to be,
that stirs our souls with longing and intent

Thank you for a faith that is
open to renewal, willing to journey,
that dares to believe that not all things stay the same
and that you, O God, are in the changing.

May we journey like Jonah to the places you call us,
to stand with the poor and the hurt and the homeless
and proclaim your love through our living.

May we pray for peace in the world,
by living as peacemakers.

May we pray for homes for all,
by welcoming the stranger in our community.

May we pray for the poor, by choosing to buy justly.

May we journey like Jonah,
with grace in our living, hope in our travelling,
justice in our sharing, and love in our being.

Amen

Hymn 530 One more step along the world I go

One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you:
*And it's from the old I travel to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corner of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old...

As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old...

Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving when the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old...

You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.
And it's from the old...

Blessing

From Nineveh into the world,
we are called to proclaim God's grace.

May we go now and share that grace
through our living with each other.

And the blessing of God Almighty Father Son and Holy Spirit will
be with you now and forevermore

Amen.