

**Weekly Devotions
South Holburn Church
14th September 2021**

READINGS

But ask the animals, and they will teach you,
or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you;
or speak to the earth, and it will teach you,
or let the fish in the sea inform you.

Which of all these does not know
that the hand of the LORD has done this?

In his hand is the life of every creature
and the breath of all mankind.

Does not the ear test words
as the tongue tastes food?

Is not wisdom found among the aged?

Does not long life bring understanding?

To God belong wisdom and power;
counsel and understanding are his.

Job 12:7-13

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

Psalms 19:1-4

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:16-20

REFLECTION

How observant are you about the world around you? I went up to car ark at the lighthouse at Nigg last week – it's been ages since I have been up there, overlooking the bay, I took my lunch with me and just sat and enjoyed the view and the peace and tranquillity. I see the that light house all the time, but it's a while since I actually noticed the wonder of the place.

Have you ever done than? Become so busy or so distracted that you notice the wonder of the world only out the corner of your eye; that you walk past the most amazing things without ever seeing them?

I remember a couple of years ago, the Northern Light were in full wondrous display over Stonehaven and we drove up to the car park at the top of Dunnottar Woods. We clambered out the car and stared in wonder. There was another car there, a sales rep on his way home. But he was on his mobile phone and so busy he never noticed nature's light show around him, until we went and told him, and even then, he only glanced for a moment. Imagine being too busy to notice when the sky puts on a show for you!

We have a picture at the manse, it hangs at the top of the stairs. We bought it in Canada, where I fell in love it. It's such a beautiful picture, an old sketch of the inside of a cathedral. When I hung the picture first, I would stop and look at it all the time. But now, most of the time I register that it's there, But I never stop and look anymore. The beauty has become ordinary.

I'm certain that you all can think of similar experiences and situations!

In the rush and routine of life, we miss so many of the miracles and beauty of life. And we are a bit like that with God too! We get so used to being God's people, to being a part of the church, to trusting that God is there, that we forget what an amazing thing it is to say that the creator of all the world is interested in 'me'. We get so busy with life, that we forget that we are in God's grasp; we forget the incredible comfort of knowing that God holds us in the palm of his hand.

We hear the stories from the Scriptures like the feeding of the 5000 thousand, or the resurrection, but they become commonplace. The miracles of God -these indescribable acts of wonder, these almighty statements of God's true nature - brush over us. We register them, but walk on by, allowing miracles to vanish into the background of our lives. And we lose the thrill of encountering God.

I believe in every one of our lives there are moments when God is at work revealing his will and his love. And these are holy moments, reminders we are God's beloved people. These are moments of miracle. Times when we can reflect on God's love and God's nature.

But if we are so caught up, moving through life, anxious to achieve the next task, pass the next milestone, turn up at the next meeting. Then, we are the biggest losers, because we lose the ability to see God at work.

And that really is my challenge to you this week. Amid the business and hassle of everyday day living, in the routine and in the activity of these post covid days, can you

find a place to slow down and focus on God, to rediscover God's love, God's presence in your life, and hear again God's call, find again God purpose. Can you take the time to ask yourself, 'How is God seeking to remind me of his love?', and, 'Where is God at work in my life?'

PRAYER

O Lord God,
It's been a busy day
There is much that we have left undone,
Much that still buzzes around in our minds as we sit here.

O Lord God,
It's been another ordinary day,
A day when we have done the things we always do,
More of the same old stuff.

O Lord God,
We have so much in our lives that get in the way of you,
So much that pushes our faith to one side,
And blinds us to your holy moments of miracle.

O Lord God,
In the midst of the busy activity,
And in the midst of the ordinary routine,
Reveal your presence,
Break through the boundaries of our experiences and our expectations,
And burst forth all your life, all your hope, all your joy upon our lives.
Rekindling the passions of our faith.

O Lord God,
As we focus on you,
Make us into your moments of miracle in the lives of others,

In Jesus name we offer our prayers,
Amen.

