

Springfield Café Church

Sunday, 22nd January 2023

+ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity +

Celebrating Pilgrimage and our new Pilgrim Pastor in Fife

He put my feet on a rock

Call to Worship

L. Shout for joy to God, all the earth!

P. Sing the glory of his name

L. Make his praise glorious

P. Say to God how awesome are your deeds!

L. So great is your power

P. That your enemies cringe before you

L. Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard,

P. Who has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

Welcome and News from Church & Community

A warm welcome to Rev Duncan Weaver, Pilgrim Pastor

Hymn 251 I, the Lord of sea and sky

Talk 1 The Fife Pilgrim Way

Duncan gave a picture presentation, showing scenes along the 62 mile route that is the Fife Pilgrim Way. The first picture was taken at Culross and we were taken on a virtual journey, proving how varied and various the landscape is as walkers progress north. Heavier industry which speaks so clearly of and mining and the rich seam of life around Methil: reminders of how tough communities have been. With his time-served Police experience Duncan recalled that the miners in these parts were the very last to go back to work after the miners' strike during Margaret Thatcher's tenure in Tory government. It sends a chill down your spine to be reminded of such seismic events - how close they are in geography and in the memories, surely of people living there still.

Contrasting with hard times (which are surely a part of our human pilgrimage and heritage) Duncan showed us the other side of this coin - the landscape we're blessed with throughout the county. Dunfermline Abbey and the origins of The Queen's Ferry when Margaret ruled so nearly by. Shingle beaches glisten and light up along our East Neuk coastline; the stretches of hinterland, richly green and farmed; key sacred places alongside the Abbey such as Auchterderran, Markinch and yes Ceres, the penultimate stop before the great Destination that was and still is St Andrews.

Duncan reflected on how important it is not only to take time to walk, pause and reflect on OUR local history, but how vested we are in being out of doors, in the fresh air, away from the sterility of computers and absorbed into the fresh, raveling air we so appreciate along our Fife Coastal Way. And as we take great gulps of reenergising air we give thanks for our history, our geography, our geology and our humanity in all its spiritual fullness.

Hymn 511 Your hand, O God has guided

Bible Reading **Psalm 40:1-11**

Talk 2 A life on the rock

Duncan reflected on the Poet's focus in this Psalm which is using a geological rock as a metaphor for the strength and security of God's power. Rocks are often found along coastal and hinterland weaving paths and they're the foundation beneath our feet, hidden by layers of ground dirt and dust. Duncan reflect on the uncertainty and lack of security that accompanies us in life when bad things happen and threaten to upset us and turn us upside down. It's at such times we long for the steadiness of rock. God's being and power he reflected is like that.

At the same time, the pilgrim path we're on as people of Christian faith means we know there will be upsetting times when we're cast about and feel terrified and lost. However, we are called beyond the immediately safe into the pilgrim Christian life, and that path will be uncertain from time to time. Duncan reflected on the tension which sits between the immoveable force of God as a rock and the call we have to journey and discover life beyond the secure.

Question to ponder and discussion on something like "As I look back on my life where has God been?"

Musical Interlude *You raise me up* by Brendan Graham
by Kate and Sheena

Prayers/ Lord's Prayer

Response

Blessed are you Lord our God, king of the universe

To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the time had fully come, You sent the Son of Righteousness

In him the fullness of your glory dwells

He was unconquered: nothing could overcome him.

He called us out of darkness into his own marvellous light.

According to the riches of his glory

Strengthen us through his Spirit

Root us and ground us in love

That our lives may be a witness to your truth

And our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.

Hymn 326 As with gladness men of old

Benediction