

Weekly Newsletter: 29th November 2022

Reflection: Unchanging but never unfeeling...

By Elspeth Smith (taken from <https://aforgetfulsoul.com/2022/11/27/unchanging-but-never-unfeeling/>)

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep...How priceless is your unfailing love!

(Ps 36.5-7)

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

(1 Cor 13.4-8)

As human beings, we are prone to allow our moods to colour our interactions with others. If we are tired, worried or upset, it so often comes out in short-tempered interactions with others who have nothing to do with the problem! and if we realise later what happened, and go to apologise, it can be hard to restore the relationship which was damaged – because the other person is as flawed and sinful as ourselves, struggling to forgive and unable to forget. Our fluctuating moods can have serious and permanent consequences.

What a relief then to turn to the most faithful friend we have, to Jesus, who in his perfect love and insight into our hearts and minds can always see the root cause of our behaviour, and in his compassion, forgive us when we repent and return to him in sorrow. I may start the day distracted, sad, frustrated and even angry with God as I wrestle with unanswered prayers, disappointments and grief. But he meets me every morning with fresh supplies of love, and is never too busy or preoccupied to share those first moments.

My moods do not deter my faithful friend, and he waits patiently until I sit still long enough to hear his loving voice and know that all is well with my soul because he has it in safe-keeping. His love revives my spirit if I will only sit with him and let him speak to me, soaking away the bitterness of my troubles and inviting me to load them onto his strong back instead of trying to carry them alone.

While the issues may remain, the answers not yet come, still I am comforted, cleansed and restored as the Lord ministers to me, and I gratefully recognise that I need bring nothing in return. He has chosen to love me, and that is enough – the best thanks I can give is a daily joyful and humble embracing of that love and continual praise of the giver. His gift to me then becomes my gift in his name and for his sake to others. His perfect love and constant presence so abundantly meet my need that I am free to pour into the lives of others what they need. Thus I may, in small measure, be a channel of his peace and love, a source of blessing

and help, a scent of Christ in my home and community. This pouring out of what I have received is a fitting expression of thanksgiving and praise, a fitting act of worship to God, who is love eternal.

I don't have to generate some spiritual feelings before I come to my Lord's side for comfort; I don't need to add up some piety points before I may be bold to pray. What sweet and utter relief in knowing that he calls me in love to come – broken, tired, feeling ugly and out of sorts with everyone and especially myself, sick with disappointment and raw with grief. Anyhow, and any way, he calls me to come and to receive what he has in abundance to give me. Lord, I come....

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(C Elliott, 1823-1871)

Cornhill Scotland – Book in a Day, this Thursday

There's still time to sign up! Andy Gemmill, Director of the Pastors' Training Course, will lead us through the well-known but often poorly understood Book of Jonah this Thursday (1st December) from 9.30am to 4.30pm at 25 Bath Street, Glasgow. Booking is open [here](#).



Men's Event – this Saturday...



Come along to the church this Saturday (3rd December) from 3-5pm for an afternoon of pickleball, table tennis, games and pizza.

Contact Joe for more information (joecebarnard@gmail.com) or Alasdair Roberts for table tennis coaching...

Christmas Calendar 2022

Here's a list of what's happening in December –

- Friends International Gift Bags, December 5th, 12 noon to 4pm
- Baby and Toddlers Nativity Play, December 11th, 3pm
- Carols by Candlelight in Montgomery Street Park, December 13th, 6:30-7:15pm
- Carol Service, December 18th, 6:00pm
- Christmas Day Family Service, December 25th, 10:30am



Note: there will be no evening service or home group meetings on December 25th or January 1st.

Lorna's Dates in Holyrood

Most of us will know (and love!) Lorna Ferguson who is serving with OMF in Japan. She will be over in Scotland from 13th December until 13th February and plans to be in Holyrood on Sunday 18th December and over the weekend of 28th and 29th January.

Next Ladies' Breakfast – Saturday 28th January

Save the date! Our next Ladies' Breakfast will be on Saturday 28th January from 9.30am until 11am. We're delighted that Lorna Ferguson will be our speaker and more details will follow in the new year.

Note: the January Book Group will meet on Saturday 21st January instead of Saturday 28th.

Carols in the Café - this Friday



Come along to the Faith Mission Café (in Gilmerton, EH17 7JD) this Friday (2nd December) at 7.30pm for Carols in the Café.

Some of the Holyrood music group will be playing and there will be carols, a Christmas message, performance music and festive treats

Bethany Welcome Centre: Items needed

The Bethany Christian Trust team have asked for help to provide the following practical items:



- Warm clothing – jackets, jumpers, T-shirts (not shirts)
- New underwear and socks (we never have enough!)
- Trousers – jeans, tracksuit bottoms (no suit/dress trousers)
- Hats & gloves (no scarves – we always have too many)
- New travel size toiletries (soap, shower gel, shampoo, razors, moisturiser, lip balm, deodorant, packets of tissues)
- New toothbrushes and toothpaste

****Please note that the vast majority of guests are male****

If you are able to provide any of these items- thank you! Please put them in the labelled box at the back of the church. The box will be available until **Sunday 18 December**. If you have any questions about items needed, contact Hannah Rankin (hannahrankin@icloud.com).

Should the UK Legalise Assisted Suicide?

Trinity Forum Edinburgh will host a dialogue at the Royal Society of Edinburgh on **Tuesday, 6 December** at 7pm. The question at hand: Should the UK Legalise Assisted Suicide?

With the legal question of assisted suicide soon returning to the Scottish Parliament, join Dr. Trevor Stammers (Editor, The New Bioethics) and Dr. Stephen Latham (Director, Yale University's Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics) for an evening discussion exploring what's at stake. The event will be chaired by MSP Jeremy Balfour. There is no cost for this event – book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/445529509757>

For those unable to attend in person, a live stream will be available: <https://youtu.be/3rC7It1iRQI>

With regards to the possibility of legalising assisted suicide in Scotland, you can also consider signing the petition expressing your concerns. This can be found at: <https://carenotkilling.scot/>

Christmas Ceilidh – Saturday 10th December



The poster is for a Christmas Ceilidh event. It features a red and green background with white text. At the top, the SU Scotland logo is displayed. Below it, the text reads: "Put your party gear and dancing shoes on, bring family and friends and dance the night away!". The main title "CHRISTMAS CEILIDH" is in large, bold, white letters, with "A KID TO CAMP" underneath it. The dates "20" and "22" are on either side of the title. Below the title, the event details are listed: "Saturday 10 December • 6:30pm-10:00pm • £5/person or £20/family". It also mentions "Snacks and drinks provided" and "Fun fundraising activities". The location is "St John's Colinton Mains Church, 221 Oxbgangs Road North, Edinburgh EH13 9ED". For further information and to book, the website "suscotland.org.uk/edinburghceilidh" is provided. At the bottom, it states that Scripture Union Scotland is registered in Scotland as a charity (no. SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no. SC54297).

Church Calendar

For your prayers and info –

- Monday: Baby and Toddler Group at 10am;
- Wednesday: Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7pm.
- Saturday: Men's Event from 3-5pm in the church
- Sunday:
 - Communion Service at 10.30am (and live streamed). Joe Barnard preaching.
 - Christmas Choir Practice after the morning service
 - Equip at 6pm



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