

The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells  
Reflections for 7th April 2020  
Holy Week – Tuesday

Led by Fran Selkirk

Welcome to this act of worship on Tuesday of Holy Week. I hope I find you well and safe and ready to worship as we approach Easter, the most important celebration in the Church year.

**We begin in prayer:** Lord God, maker and lover of all, as we contemplate again the pageant of our Lord's betrayal, suffering, and death: may neither history, ritual, nor sentiment of this season in themselves fascinate us. Rather may our souls be grasped by what our minds alone cannot contain: that this was all for us. Merciful God, forgive that we fall asleep when you call us to watch and pray. Christ our Saviour, forgive that we are not watchful. We do not choose to hope or plant the seeds of hopefulness. God over all, Christ within us, Spirit around us, hear our prayer and send your messenger of peace to us and your sleeping world. We ask this in Jesus name and pray the words he taught us:

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 and the glory for ever. Amen

Our readings come from Mark 13: in which Jesus foretells the future. I would encourage you to read it in full.

### Reflection

In verse 5, Jesus said: “Don’t let anyone mislead you, because many will come in my name, claiming to be the Messiah, They will lead many astray.” He goes on to describe the end-times and his return”.

Verses 34-37 say: “The coming of the Son of Man can compare with that of a man who left home to go on a trip. He gave each of his employee’s instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. So keep a sharp lookout! For you do not know when the home-owner will return – at evening, mid-night, early dawn or late daybreak. Don’t let him find you sleeping, when he arrives without warning. What I say to you, I say to everyone. Watch for his return!”

On this Tuesday of Holy Week we consider the coming events for Jerusalem and the world. Jesus uses words recorded in Mark 13, that reflect the Old Testament prophesies of the end-time and this “apocalyptic language” was familiar to the people around him. He speaks of battles, earthquakes, famines, the eclipse of sun and moon. This is all frightening stuff, but Jesus also speaks of himself, the Son of Man: reminding us to be aware of false Messiahs and false prophets who will lead us astray. At the end of the chapter, Jesus tells one of his stories, illustrating our role at this time.

We are to stay sharp, to be aware and watchful, for Jesus will return in majesty and power. At this time the old world will pass away and God’s New Kingdom will be ours. I wonder if like me, you feel uncomfortable, liking the status quo and being forced to face the truth of our world, where many suffer; the hungry and thirsty, those who endure war and want and those who suffer ill-health, BUT equally important, those that have not heard the gospel of SALVATION. Our challenge for today is to consider, question and pray about our role, in sharing all that we have with the world: OUR FAITH, MONEY, TIME and LOVE.

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week when we see again, the depths and mystery of your redeeming love, help us to follow where you go, to stop where you stumble, to listen when you cry, to hurt as you suffer, to bow our heads in sorrow when you die, so that when you are raised to life again, we will share your endless joy. Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may know that nothing can separate us from your love. Gracious God, give skill and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and give your wisdom to those searching for a cure, and those producing supplies and equipment that will help us in this time. Strengthen us all with your Spirit, that through our actions many may be restored to health.

Loving God as Christian people, may we be able to say: We are not a people of fear; we are a people of courage. We are not a people who protect ourselves, but we think of the safety of other. We are not a people of greed, but of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever the cost, for as long as it takes, and wherever you call us. Amen

In this difficult time we are called to care for each other and to be kind. Let us keep in touch with those who are alone, and do all that we can to protect each other from this frightening virus and all its consequences and we can always pray:

Loving God, may your Spirit strengthen and support us, so that we are given courage and conviction when justice is challenged and peace endangered. May your Spirit provide silence or words to combat the taunts of the godless and prejudiced. May your Spirit console and comfort us if we find ourselves isolated and maligned for championing the powerless or sharing the pain of the defeated. May the Spirit of Christ our Lord live within us.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be ever with us and the world. Amen.