

Focus on Fetteresso

Last Sunday saw the welcome return of David Platt who is a Reader in the Church of Scotland.

David comes from Newtonhill and undertakes a day job in the oil industry in addition to his Sunday duties visiting various churches as need arises.

The worship was based on a variety of hymns including "Celebrate and sing", "There is a Redeemer" and "I am a New Creator". The music was led by Ian Gillies and the choir delighted with a rendering of an Irish song. In his message to the children, David looked at the time that we have in our day. There are important times, time to say thank-you and time to say sorry. We have so many events in our lives and we need to make time to say thank-you to Jesus.

The lessons read by Robert Bell were taken from Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13 "A time for everything" and Revelation 21: 1-6 "A new heaven and a new earth".

In his address, David looked at the passage from Ecclesiastes. We are not sure who wrote this book or when it was written. It would appear to have been prepared in a time of economic recession. In some ways it appears to be very sceptical, finds life to be meaningless and can be very negative.

However it does quite clearly recognise God's purpose for our lives. We can eat, drink and find satisfaction in our toil. The bad things will come to an end and there is time for good things in our lives. To find this we should put Jesus first in our lives. Ecclesiastes describes life as it is; this is a guide as to how to make the most of our lives.

As a contrast David also looked at John's great vision in Revelation. This is a divine pronouncement of life; there is a great climax to come. The door is open for anyone who wants to knock; it is never too late to ask. We can move forwards towards this great promise through our own actions and with the grace of God. We are all new creations in God's world.

In the evening service led by Robert Bell, from the lesson in 2 Tim 4:1-8 we looked at the topic of Departure.

This was Paul looking forward to his departure. What happens as we look forward to the great unknown, what have we done in this life with our gifts and talents, are we ready to go? Robert looked at three aspects of this big event in our lives:

1. "I have fought a good fight" in a world where there is a great spiritual war to save people. Jesus was a great admirer of Roman soldiers who could demonstrate such extraordinary faith. We need to fight every day to stay faithful to God.
2. "I have finished the race" which has lasted a lifetime. We run the race to win God's prize. We participate in this race through bible readings, fellowship and commitment. We are the salt in this life. The majority of people do not participate in the race in this life, however they still have a yearning for it and they watch us to see how well we are running. Some people abandon the faith and live by the standards of this world.
3. "I have kept the faith" so that I can find the crown of righteousness that God has promised. There is joy, glory and reward for those who serve well.

The following intimations were made: -

- The Call to welcome Fyfe Blair is now available for members and adherents to sign. This is part of the Church of Scotland process to appoint a new minister and everyone should participate in signing this document.
- Paul Jones of Manfred Mann fame is visiting the church with his wife Fiona to perform a concert as witness on Saturday 21st February. Tickets £5 are available in the office and Here and Now.