

A Special Welcome: to any visitors who are with us today. Please join us for coffee or tea in the hall after the service. Read the notice board to find out what services and social events are going on at St. Augustine's and please join in as many as you can during your stay.

Prayers this week: Remember our friends who are sick or who have asked for our prayers: Sadie Dyer, Simon Fraser, Margaret Elkins, Anne Phillips, Jean Milby, Una Gilmour, Shirley Currie, Frances Whyte, Owen and Doreen Sayers, and Angela Filmer. In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for the work of the Worship and Liturgy Group led by Darren McFarland. We pray for the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh and their priest David Cook and for the parish of St Mungo's, Alexandria and for their priest Sally Gorton. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the church in Matlosane (formerly Klerksdorp) - (South Africa) and their Bishop, The Rt Revd Stephen Molopi Diseko

Prayer Group: This takes place on the first Monday of each month. Meet at 2pm in Shirley Currie's house. If you are not sure where this is, then please speak to Kenny or Tim. See Tim if you have any topics for prayer.

HYMN: Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as your are before your God.

One day every tongue will confess you are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
who gladly choose you now



15th February 2009

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



The hall will be demolished this week

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New Hall: The Contractor, DCF Joiners/Builders, from Broadmeadow Estate, have started work on the hall and the JCB should be on site tomorrow. All groups that used the hall are now operating fully from the back of the church. The Church Office is relocated within the church building. At all costs, we must try to avoid clutter and untidiness in the church during the next six months and everyone can help by tidying where they see clutter or any mess. It is for all of us to care for the building not just a few. The new hall should be ready for the end of August for us to move back in. Thanks to all who have helped with the move into the church, lots of packing, unpacking and carrying has gone on in the last week or two.

Parish Website: Do you visit the Parish website on www.staugustinesdumbarton.co.uk ? if not then you are missing important information about parish life. There is so much information and things to see. There is a News and Blog section on the Home Page which keeps us all up to date on the goings-on at St Augustine's, and now selected Liturgical prayers. Toastie now has his own blog. Follow the link from the website and read his view of the world!!! <http://toastiedog.blog.co.uk> There is also Kenny's Blog, <http://frkenny.blog.co.uk> Lots of pics to be found in the Multimedia Section. Go on! Relive the memories!

Dumbarton Gambia Education Association: It may be a good idea to have an evening in the church to show some great photographs and videos of the children during our January visit. There is also a video of the graduation ceremony that took place last July when Fran was visiting. It is well worth watching. The Charity trustees will discuss this and make some arrangements.

MAD at St. Augustine's: The HMS Neptune (Faslane) Wind Band will now be playing at St. Augustine's, we hope, on March 25th. Please come along and enjoy the wide variety of music which will be on offer.

Friday lunches and Saturday Coffee mornings: Starting this week the Friday lunches will take place in the back of the church. Times are still 12 till 1pm, so please come along and support us and enjoy a great bowl of home made soup as well as toasties and other treats. Saturday morning coffees are also in the church, 10 till 12 so please support this as often as you can.

Birthdays: We are aiming to ensure that we know when everyone has their birthday. In order to get them all correct a book has been put at the back of the church for everyone to add any church birthdays they know about. Please have a look before you go home today, thanks.

Friends of St. Augustine's: The next Friends event will be the Pancake Night on Tuesday 24th Feb. Please put your name down on the list on the notice board at the back of the church..

Disaster: The gable end of the tenement next door should be repaired within the next few days It may take a couple of weeks, though, for the office to become fully functional! The Rector is having to wear his hard hat when he's working upstairs at present. Not a pretty sight!

Parish Walks: The first walk of 2009 is on Saturday, March 7th. Please come along to the walks this year, they are good fun, great exercise and great company, both canine and human. Toastie, Peanut and Archie are excited already! Speak to Rosemary or Tim for more information and keep an eye on the noticeboard.

Crochet Hooks: Fran Walker is looking for crochet hooks, before the beginning of March, to send out to The Gambia. Teaching crocheting is another skill that we hope to pass on to our Adult Education class and other groups that Faye is involved in through the JUICE Project. Hook up with Fran if you can help!

Reflection

*Each of us to some extent has felt the pain of rejection.
Rejection makes us feel that we are worthless.
It makes us want to shrivel up or even openly rebel.
It is like a shower of hail falling on tender young flowers.
Each of us longs to be accepted, accepted for what we are.
When someone accepts us
they give us the feeling that we are worthwhile.
Acceptance means that we are free to be ourselves.
Even though there is need for growth and change
we are not being forced.
It is the love and acceptance of others
that makes me the unique person that I am.
When I am accepted only for work I do,
then I am not unique,
for someone else can do the same work
perhaps even better than I can.
But when I am accepted for what I am,
then I become unique and irreplaceable,
and I can blossom to my full potential*

This is how Christ accepts us.

HYMNS

Int:	Come, now is the time	(on sheet)
Grad 86	Cloth for the cradle	
Off: 105	Dance and sing	
Com:	Here is love	(on sheet)
Rec: 541	What a friend	

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 15th February, 2009

The Collect

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel."

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not

Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Hymn of Reflection (we stay seated)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise

self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

The Gospel

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

HYMN: Here is love vast as the ocean,
loving kindness as the flood.
When the Prince of Life, our ransom,
shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten,
throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide;
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above,
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love. *William Rees*