



Taizé for St Peter's Day Saturday 2 July 2022

Welcome to this service of reflective prayer. The words and songs of this service move in and out of an underlying silence. There will be a period of silence between each section of the service.

Opening Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwGm4NTCoWE>

By night we hasten in darkness
To search for the living waters,
Only our thirst lights us onward,
Only our thirst lights us onward. (Taizé Bk1:46)

The Lighting of Candles

L. Come to us this night O God,
R. Come to us with light.
L. Speak to us this night O God,
R. Speak to us your truth
L. Dwell with us this night O God,
R. Dwell with us in Love

Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLuOkewSK4c>
O.....Surrexit Christus Alleluia
OChrist is Risen Alleluia

Sentence (Jesus) said to them, " But who do people say that I am?".
Simon Peter answered "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."
(St. Matthew 16: 15-16)

Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXCMv5lF-TM>
Don't be afraid, My love is stronger
My love is stronger than your fear,
Don't be afraid, My love is stronger
And I have promised, promised to be always near.
(J. Bell)

Reading Peter's Declaration about Jesus (St. Matthew 16:16-19) NRS

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,^[a] the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter,^[b] and on this rock^[c] I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhdDgLqdgIc>
Stay with me, remain where with me, watch and pray
Watch and pray. (Taizé)

Reflection.

This weekend at St Peter's Cathedral we are celebrating our Patronal Festival, and since our patron is St. Peter we take a brief look at his credentials. Peter was a fisherman. Jesus had called Peter, then called Simon, and his brother Andrew along with ten others from a variety of backgrounds to be his twelve Apostles. These men were to be his core group of pupils and workers, and also his closest friends.

Peter was a man of great passion for his master, and a man of great passion for his calling. He was the first of the twelve to recognise Jesus as the Messiah, and he was rewarded for that by Jesus changing his name from the Simon to Peter. Peter means "rock", and it was on this rock, Jesus went on to proclaim, that he would build his church.

But unlike his master, Peter was far from divine. At times he, like us, allowed himself to be led by his frail humanity. Soon after their calling, Jesus warned his twelve companions that he was about to undergo great suffering at the hands of the chief priests and scribes in Jerusalem and die, Peter objected fiercely:

“God forbid it Lord!” he proclaimed, “This must never happen to you”. And the response of Jesus to Peter was equally startling. “Get behind me Satan! For you are a stumbling block for me....(Mt.16: 13-22)

And there was another earth shattering time when the human frailty of Peter over road his yearning to follow his beloved Lord. It was at the conclusion of the agonising night Jesus had spent in the Garden of Gesthemane, prior to his trial and execution. Peter had followed the soldiers with Jesus to the court of the high priest, but from a distance, hoping not to be seen.

So when a servant girl recognised him as a friend of Jesus, overwhelmed by fear for his own life, Peter denied knowing Jesus, not once but three times. Jesus had foreseen his denial, and had warned Peter that when that happened, the cock would crow three times.

On hearing the cock crow following his fateful denial of Jesus, Peter aware of the magnitude of his failure of his beloved Lord, went out and wept bitterly.

Not long after his death, Jesus met Peter once more. The disciples had gone back fishing, taking their first step back to work after their great loss. Early in the morning by the Sea of Tiberius, Jesus was on the beach. Seeing their boat on the water, and knowing the disciples had caught nothing all night, he called out directions for them to cast their nets out the other side of the boat than the one they always used. They did so, and the haul was huge. At that, Peter recognised Jesus. When they got to shore and after breakfast, in a short and painful dialogue, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Three times in anguished sorrow for his three rejections, Peter reassured Jesus that he did indeed love him. With this Peter’s position of leadership of the followers of Jesus, was restored.

St Peter, known as the chief apostle, the rock upon which the church is built, the one whose image we see carved in wood or stone and depicted in majestic stained glass windows in Cathedrals and churches throughout the world, was chosen by Jesus not because of his perfection in living, but because of his deep and heartfelt desire to love and follow his Lord.

The humanity of Peter encourages us not to give up when we fail, and even fail badly. God knows the stuff of which we are made, God understands the limitations of our wills and desires, and God even understands our rejection of his saving love for us.

Like Peter, when we sense we have moved away from God, or when we are burdened with the knowledge of our sin and doubt, all we need to do is keep turning back to God in sorrow and repentance. Then, as we are ready to try again to love God more completely, God’s grace will restore us, as Peter was restored, to new life, new hope, new peace and the life-giving experience of God’s love, new every morning. Great is God’s faithfulness!

Intercessions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51n-yb11dY>

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer
When I call - answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me (Taizé)

The Lord's Prayer

Songs for reflection

1 I am sure I shall see
the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Yes, I shall see
the goodness of our God,
hold firm, trust in the Lord

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Wm_hjF_PO8&t=36s

2

Bless the Lord me soul,
And Bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord me soul,
Who leads me into life

2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zqHgbWO0wQ>

Concluding Prayer

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you:
Deep peace of Christ. (Scots Celtic Prayer)

Blessing

Notices.

Thank you for coming. Apologies to any who may have come last month when we needed to cancel the service at short notice.

Supper is provided at the back of the Cathedral. Thanks to those who set up and provide the supper with such generosity.

The next Taizé service will be held on Saturday August 6 at 7.30pm. Singers and musicians are encouraged to come at 6.30pm to run through the music. Sat 6 August is the feast of the Transfiguration and also Hiroshima Day. Please bring a friend!

St Peter is the Patron Saint of this Cathedral, and also the disciple Jesus chose to lead his disciples following his death.

The upside down cross which is associated with St. Peter, is a reminder of how he died.

Song https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jL_vNr91bw

Be not afraid sing out for joy,
Christ is risen Alleluia
Be not afraid sing out for joy,
Christ is risen Alleluia