



Beloved

Thursday 16th January



Little Drawing of a Heart via PickPik

Scripture: Hebrews 3.1-14

Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also ‘was faithful in all God’s house.’ Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honour than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to testify to the things that would be spoken later. Christ, however, was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the confidence and the pride that belong to hope.

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,
‘Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
as on the day of testing in the wilderness,
where your ancestors put me to the test,
though they had seen my works for forty years.
Therefore I was angry with that generation,
and I said, “They always go astray in their hearts,
and they have not known my ways.”’

As in my anger I swore,

“They will not enter my rest.” ’

Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.

To reflect

Beloved means to be greatly loved. In the depictions of Jesus’ baptism, we hear in all three synoptic Gospels: Luke, Mark and Matthew that God the Father calls God the Son ‘beloved’. What does it mean to you to be beloved by God?

In our baptism the rite says that we are called by God in love and invited to respond. In the introduction to Confession in the Scottish Liturgy (1982, 2022) we are told God is Love, we are God’s children and that there is no fear in love and we love before God loved us first.

Today you’re invited to reflect on your being beloved by God – what does this make you give thanks to God for? How do you respond to your being beloved by God?

Beloved, my Beloved... (Sonnet 20) by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806 –1861)

Beloved, my Beloved, when I think
That thou wast in the world a year ago,
What time I sate alone here in the snow
And saw no footprint, heard the silence sink
No moment at thy voice ... but, link by link,
Went counting all my chains, as if that so
They never could fall off at any blow
Struck by thy possible hand ... why, thus I drink
Of life's great cup of wonder! Wonderful,
Never to feel thee thrill the day or night
With personal act or speech,—nor ever cull
Some prescience of thee with the blossoms white
Thou sawest growing! Atheists are as dull,
Who cannot guess God's presence out of sight.

To Listen (these and other suggestions can be found on a Spotify playlist at

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0F5bU2sf4OiOiQY3q78Rf2?si=a99cbbf61e7d4587>)

- ‘Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands’ a setting of words by C.H. Spurgeon by Greg Kay. This is often used as a Communion hymn, thinking of how Jesus is our beloved.
- ‘Beloved’ by Mumford and Sons – this song thinks about how it is to treat someone who is ‘beloved’ by you.
- ‘I Am Your Beloved’ by Jonathan David Helser and Melissa Helser. The chorus to this song (from the Bethel tradition) is ‘*I am Your beloved, You have bought me with Your blood, And on Your hand, You’ve written out my name, I am Your beloved, One the Father loves, Mercy has defeated all my shame*’

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.