

Hello everyone

Welcome to our joint worship today. It's marvellous to worship with our friends from Drumoak Durris.

The strength of the church gathered to gether

Sometimes we all need a nudge to focus our thoughts don't we?

I remember one day getting a nudge to that focused my thoughts one day when I was minister at Echt and Midmar.

My mother had gone into a care home in Blairgowrie and the possessions from her house were being dispersed around the family.

Arrangements were made for Pickfords to take some of her furniture to my borther in York, some to Echt and some to my younger brother in Inverness.

The van arrived in Echt, the delivery man got out of the van and opened the back.

I was amazed at how the van had been packed. All our things were there ready just to slip off the back of the van, no need to crawl over boxes to the back- all was in order.

I told him how impressive it was.

Ahh he says. You know the 10 commandments probably minister.

Yes I replied

Well I work with the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Use your loaf, he said.

Use your loaf when it comes to loading a van with multiple destinations.

Today, Jesus is looking for his disciples to use their loaves when it comes to understanding who he is.

The gospel writers wrote the good news down so that each of us might answer a simple question.

It was a question back in Jesus time, it's a question too for today.

Just who is Jesus?

In some ways it's easy to answer

He is the messiah, but in saying that images of what messiah mean come into our heads, don't they?

The lamb of God

The good shepherd

Son of David

Bread of life

The way, the truth and the life

Man of sorrows

Lord of the dance

Mystic

Revolutionary

King of Glory

Superstar

Mediator.

Jesus the messiah conjures up so many images doesn't he.

So many, I love one writer's description. He simply calls Jesus the patron of all who seek to improve the world.

And who do you say I am, Jesus asked

And Peter replied for everyone when he said.

You are the messiah.

But just what does that mean we are left wondering as we look to follow him in our lives day by day

Let us worship God through his son Jesus,

the messiah,

the lamb of God,

The Good shepherd,

The lord of the dance

But above all the one who as the patron of all who seek to improve the world

Holds out hope to us through his outstretched arms on a cross and an empty tomb.

Peace be with you,

Amen