Sermon: **Therefore…** (Hebrews 10.19) (GNB has the more feeble ‘then’)

Who knows what a Munro is? (the 282 mountains in Scotland over 3000ft, named after Sir Hugh Munro)

Some try to climb them all. We see how worthy this seems, but to do so needs two things – desire & power.

This is also true in achieving anything worthwhile in life. NB desire must be first; worry about power later.

In Hebrews after restating what Jesus has done, TEXT, with desirable consequences.

* TEXT, let us come near to God (22)
We can do this in many ways – worship, prayer, Bible, creation, reflection…
* TEXT, let us hold firmly to the hope we profess (23)
What is this hope? See Heb 4.1 (**God has offered us the promise that we may receive that rest he spoke about**), 1 Cor 15.19 (**if our hope in Christ is good for this life only and no more, then we deserve more pity than anyone else in all the world**). God’s promises can be trusted!
* TEXT, let us be concerned for one another (24)
“*I can be a Christian without coming to church*” Yes, but… how can you receive/give help? Mutuality.
Think about the people next to you, behind you, in front of you – do you care at all about them? One important reason for coming to church is exactly this, to help each other **‘to show love and to do good’**.
* TEXT, let us not give up the habit of meeting together (25)
Easy to let things slide. There are always other things to do. Always tired, not feeling like it, etc.
Those who come on the church van struggle to get here but are determined to do so.

We can all see how worthy are all these things but, like climbing Munros, we need more than seeing their worthiness; we also need desire and power.

Desire – how much do you want to come near to God (who will not condemn but welcome like father of Prodigal Son)? How much do you want to hope for a life beyond this life? How much do you want to be concerned for others? How much do you want to keep meeting? A little bit, a lot, with all your heart?

Power - only when the desire is awoken can God’s Spirit help us achieve that desire. The deeper the desire the greater the power offered.

TEXT: all this is the consequence of what Jesus has done, and exactly why this letter was written.