

DALMENY KIRK AND QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2022

The services in November will, as usual, follow the Christian year but, in each week there will also be a reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. You might choose to follow either theme – or both!

Week 1 – All Hallows'/All Saints/All Souls

Leader:

Those who have died live in their friends and families;
those who have died live in you; those who have died
live in me.

This year All Saints and All Souls days have passed by the time we meet, but we are still in the season of All Saints. Hallowe'en is the night before All Saints' Day. Hallow is an old English word meaning holy as in "Hallowed be thy name." So Hallowe'en is a holy day before All Saints' Day. Its significance has been lost as it has been taken over by witches and ghosts and pumpkins and "trick or treat."

All Saints' Day is when we remember the saints who have gone before us in faith – not the ones who got Saint in front of their names, because they have their own named day, but rather all those who are part of the company of the faithful.

All Souls' Day is the day after when Christians remember relatives and others known to them who have died.

The 3rd November is St. Winefride's day. You can google her! Today's Opening Responses are taken from a liturgy for her Saint's day.

OPENING RESPONSES

You call us into the darkness

FACE US WITH YOUR TRUTH

You tell us not to worry

FILL US WITH YOUR PEACE

You encourage us to face our fears

SURROUND US WITH YOUR LOVE

You call us to new paths

UPHOLD US WITH YOUR RESURRECTION PROMISE

Hymn or song: Suggestions of hymns you might listen to or read are: "For all the saints" or "The Church's one foundation."

Read Psalm 24

Prayer

God of warmth and welcome, we come into your presence with wonder and praise; caught up with the saints and the angels we bring you our prayers:

O God who dwells in highest heaven, yet stoops to touch our lives, we worship and adore you; our voices mingle with the angels as we cry aloud:

HOLY, HOLY ARE YOU LORD OF HOSTS; THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF YOUR GLORY.

We confess that we are not worthy to be called your children and yet you call us to do your work and to be your hands on earth.

We have not followed our calling as we should; we have failed to love others as you would have us love them; we have failed to speak words of kindness and have sometimes spoken words of anger and words which hurt. Forgive us we pray. May your ministering angels blot out our sins.

Holy and merciful God, write the values of the beatitudes into our hearts and lives; and help us with all your saints and angels to seek your face and walk in your ways.

As we remember loved ones who have died, be near to us and bring us your comfort. You know our grief and understand our loss; help us to comfort and support one another. May your compassion surround us and your strength sustain us until we meet them again.

And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

OUR FATHER

You might at this point in the service invite people to **light a candle** in remembrance of those who have gone before them in this life after these words:

**FOR THOSE WHO LIT OUR LIVES WITH JOY,
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TOUCHED US WITH
TENDERNESS,
FOR THOSE WHOSE LOSS FILLS US WITH LONGING,
WE GIVE THANKS IN GLAD REMEMBRANCE.**

**Read: Philippians 1 verses 12 – 30
Matthew 5 verses 1 -1 2**

Reflection

Reflect briefly either on an aspect of All Saints or All Souls or on something from the 1st Chapter of Philippians – not necessarily the part I have selected. It is not necessary to deliver a talk. You might choose to read poetry or play music.

Prayer

This is a time for prayers for the world; for the communities in which we live; for the Church and those who minister here in any capacity; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

We celebrate those who have travelled before us, showing us in their persistent courage and tenderness how to live in love, and die in faith and hope.

**HOLY GOD, WITHIN AND AMONGST US,
WE GIVE THANKS IN GLAD REMEMBRANCE**

Week 2 – Remembrance

Leader: Remember, remember that Jesus Christ rose
from the dead

OPENING RESPONSES

The world belongs to God

THE EARTH AND ALL ITS PEOPLE

How good and lovely it is

TO LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY

Love and faith come together

JUSTICE AND PEACE JOIN HANDS

Lord, open our lips

AND OUR MOUTHS SHALL PROCLAIM YOUR PRAISE

Hymn or song: Suggestions of hymns you might listen to or read are: “I have a dream” a man once said; For the healing of the nations; Make me a channel of your peace.

Read Psalm 46

Prayer

Deep, searching God, who has taught us to love our enemies, and do good to those who hate us, give us, we pray, the courage which delivers us from the dread of our foes. Show us that your love can overcome fear, especially the fear and distrust of those who are different from us.

Restore us to the harmony which you intend for the whole human race.

Guide people of all faiths and no faith into your ways of peace and justice.

This we ask in and through your Spirit of freedom, truth and mercy.

We fight over land which is not ours.

FORGIVE US OUR ARROGANCE

We put a price on resources which are priceless

FORGIVE US OUR GREED

We create divisions and labels which separate and humiliate

FORGIVE US WHEN WE HURT OTHERS

Too often we fail to learn from our mistakes and blame others for our errors.

FORGIVE US OUR WRONGDOINGS

**WE WILL REMEMBER THAT THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S
AND ALL THAT IS IN IT**

Loving God, when war comes – as it does in our world - be with us and with our enemies.

Be with those who are called to fight, those who are injured, those who die and those whose lives are changed forever.

Loving God, be with us in our pain, our questions, our sadness and despair.

Hallow our lives with your peace, your justice and your forgiving love.

And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus taught his disciples, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Philippians 2 verses 1 – 11

John 15 verses 9 - 17

Reflection

Reflect briefly either on an aspect of Remembrance or on something from the 2nd Chapter of Philippians – not necessarily the part I have selected. It is not necessary to deliver a talk. You might choose to read poetry or play music.

Prayer

This is a time for prayers for the world; for the communities in which we live; for the Church and those who minister here in any capacity; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Lead us onward, God of grace

**THAT WE MAY NOT BE DECEIVED BY THE LIES OF
POWER, NOR BECOME IMPATIENT WITH THE
HUMILITY OF GOODNESS.**

Lead us on in love, God of grace

**THAT ALL OUR FEARS MAY BE HEARD, BELIEVED AND
UNDERSTOOD.**

Lead us on in love each day, God of grace

**THAT WE MAY COME TO YOUR HOUSE OF JOY AND
FIND YOUR RULE AND REIGN MADE REAL FOR ALL
CREATION.**

Week 3 – Prisoners’ Week

Leader:

He sent me to give the good news to the poor,
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more;
tell blind people that they can see,
and set the downtrodden free,
and go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God
has come. (34 in Songs of God’s People)

OPENING RESPONSES

God of justice, God of grace

SET US FREE TODAY

Lord of the rich, and Lord of the poor

OPEN OUR LIVES TO YOUR GRACE

Spirit of love, Spirit of truth

FILL UP OUR HEARTS WITH PRAISE

Suggested hymns you might read or listen to:

Amazing grace; We cannot measure how you heal;

Blessed assurance.

The following prayer and the Prisoners’ Week Prayer are taken from the resources prepared for Prisoners’ Week 2022.

Prayer

Loving God, we gather as your people, your children,
your family, to give you our worship and adoration. We
know there is no-one like you; no-one who heals with

such tenderness or loves with such gentleness, and no-one who pours such grace upon our lives.

You are a God who walks with us knowing our weaknesses, our worries, our cares, our joys and our dreams.

In Jesus you show us your love in action in the world, grace personified, love crucified, our lives sanctified. Holy Spirit, forgive us when we stop you from bringing about the transformation we so badly need in our lives, healing restoring, forgiving.

And now hear us as we pray in the words Jesus taught his disciples, saying

OUR FATHER

The Prisoners' Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those who are held in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love:

Prisoners, their families and friends; prison staff; chaplains and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.

Help us to forgive one another, and to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day.

Amen.

Psalm 19 verses 7 - 14

Read: Philippians 3 verses 12 – 21
John 11 verses 17 - 37

Reflection

There could be a discussion about how society deals with offenders and also how we respond to victims of offenders. Or you could look at how we deal with prisoners who have served their sentence, and what role the Church can play. Where does forgiveness lie? The Gospel passage is a story of loss and restoration. Prison is a moment of loss of all kinds for the families of prisoners.

Or you might reflect on Chapter 3 of Philippians – not necessarily the part I have selected. It is not necessary to deliver a talk. You might choose to read poetry or play music.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church; for the justice system, for those in prison and for those who work in our prisons and for the families of prisoners; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

Alternatively, you could use intercessions which you can find online on the Prisoners' Week Scotland 2022 resources.

CLOSING PRAYER

LET US GO IN PEACE TO BE THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

**LET US TAKE STRENGTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT
GOD LOVES US, AND HOPE IN THE POWER OF THE
RESURRECTED CHRIST.**

**MAY WE TAKE COURAGE FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT TODAY AND ALWAYS.**

AMEN.

Week 4 – Christ the King – the end of the Christian Year

Leader: Come, let us bow down and worship God.
Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
He is our God, we are the people he
cares for, the flock for which he provides.

OPENING RESPONSES

Make way!

MAKE SPACE!

Make time!

MAKE PEACE!

The Lord our King is close

THE LORD OF LOVE IS NEAR

The Prince of peace approaches

MAKE WAY FOR CHRIST THE KING.

Suggested hymns you might read or listen to:
Rejoice! The Lord is King; At the name of Jesus; The
Lord is King, lift up your voice.

Read: Psalm 122

Prayer

King of kings, we seek you in the leadership of our world: in the places where power is not used with justice, that your way will challenge those who are responsible for others.

Light of life, we seek you in the shadows of our world: in the places where violence and hatred thrive, that your gift of peace will bring transformation.

Saviour of the poor, we seek you in the needs of our world: in the places where there is hunger and thirst, that we might share our food and drink.

Word of truth, we seek you in the disbelief of our world: in the places of deceit and mistrust, that your honesty will always be our guide.

Flesh of our flesh, we seek you in the humanity of our world: in the places where dignity and worth are ignored, that the weak and vulnerable may reveal your power.

King of kings, Light of life, Saviour of the poor, Word of truth, Flesh of our flesh; in your love we pray.

And now hear us as we pray in Jesus' words, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Philippians 4 verses 1 – 9

Matthew 25 verses 31 – 46

Reflection

This could be a reflection on the end of the Christian year, on the nature of kingship as seen in Jesus, or

perhaps on how you feel when you read the Gospel passage from Matthew.

Or you might reflect on Chapter 4 of Philippians – not necessarily the part I have selected. It is not necessary to deliver a talk. You might choose to read poetry or play music.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

In the strength of God the maker

WE ARE GOING ON A JOURNEY

In the friendship of Jesus

WE ARE GOING ON A JOURNEY

In the safeguarding of the Holy Spirit

WE ARE GOING ON A JOURNEY

A star is shining.

Angels are busy.

Mary is pregnant.

Joseph is packing.

Advent is coming.

It's time to go.

MAY GOD BLESS US WITH HOPE AND WONDER AS WE TRAVEL.

