

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2021

This month we are using the material which was used in August last year, but, because of having a break this year, we can use it in September. We'll look at 4 Psalms. The choice is huge and all of us would have chosen different Psalms. I had to whittle down my original list by a lot – and several times!

In each case I have chosen the passage from the Gospels which appears in the Lectionary on the same Sunday as the chosen Psalm.

Week 1 – Psalm 19

God's glory in creation.

The Law of the Lord

Leader:

The heavens declare the glory of the Lord!

We now declare his glory as we read his word, come to him in prayer, and perhaps in the words of hymn or song or other music or indeed in some other medium.

Come let us worship the Lord our God.

OPENING RESPONSES

The word of the Lord is sweet to our ears:

SWEETER THAN HONEY IN THE COMB!

His laws are sure, his commands are radiant:

SWEETER THAN HONEY IN THE COMB!

His law is perfect, reviving the soul: what he ordains is more precious than gold.

SWEETER THAN HONEY IN THE COMB!

Hymn or song:

There is a version of Psalm 19 at No. 10 in CH4. It is written by Timothy Dudley-Smith. It is the only hymn to that metre in the hymn book and is unfamiliar. The words are good.

There is also the chorus "The heavens are telling the glory of God" from Haydn's "Creation."

On You Tube you can find several versions of "The Law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul."

Read Psalm 19

Prayer – the first part is from "Fig Trees and Furnaces" published by the Iona Community. This prayer is written by Ruth Burgess.

The sky shows us God's glory. It shows us what God has made.

The sun comes out in the morning like a bride or bridegroom full of joy.

The sun comes out in the morning like an athlete eager to run a race.

The sun starts at one end of the sky and moves across to the other.

The sun is full of light, nothing can hide from its heat. Without words, the sky speaks of God's glory. It shows us what God has made.

Heavenly Father, for those good gifts and for all the other gifts of creation which you have given us, we give you our praise and our thanks.

No matter where we go there are wonderful signs of your majesty for us to see. Sometimes we are awed by the size and grandeur of your creation, while at other times we marvel at the beauty and intricacy of a tiny flower. Sometimes we are moved by the power of wind and water, while at other times we are moved by the peace and tranquillity of a still day spent far from the noise of traffic or people.

We praise you for all your wonderful creation.

We come to you and confess that we do not always care for your world: we waste food; we throw away material goods which have not worn out; we drive when we could walk. Forgive us we pray and help us to stop and think before we act carelessly with your good gifts.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Luke 4 16 – 21

Reflection

Reflect for 5 – 7 minutes. Please keep within that time frame!

Psalm 19 is clearly divided into 2 parts. You might want to focus on just one part. Both the Psalm and the Gospel passage talk about the law of the Lord and the word of the Lord. The Gospel passage reminds us that Jesus' interpretation of the word met with hostility. This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

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 how we face new challenges in our churches; for those who are sick at this time; for all health workers and carers; for our country as we learn to live in a world where there is still a lot of infection but where restrictions have been eased; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

God tells us how to behave

GOD SHOWS US WHAT IS RIGHT

God teaches us how to be fair.

GOD GIVES US WISDOM AND STRENGTH.

God's truth is more precious than gold and his wisdom is sweeter than honey.

MAY OUR WORDS AND THOUGHTS MAKE GOD SMILE.

MAY OUR ACTIONS MAKE GOD HAPPY.