

**DALMENY KIRK AND QUEENSFERRY PARISH
CHURCH**

MIDWEEK SERVICES

OCTOBER 2022

The services in October will have an autumn theme. This follows naturally from the Season of Harvests. In many areas the harvest will still be being gathered in.

Week 1 – The Change of Seasons

OPENING RESPONSES

Daylight grows short as the nights draw in;

YET THE LIGHT OF GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS BRIGHT

Days grow chill and the nights bring frost;

**YET THE WARMTH OF GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS
NEAR**

Autumn leaves fall and trees become bare;

**YET THE VIBRANCY OF GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS
STRONG**

Winds rage over the hills and sweep through the streets;

YET THE SHELTER OF GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS FIRM

Rivers rise as autumn rains soak the land;

YET THE SECURITY OF GOD'S PRESENCE REMAINS TRUE.

Hymn or song: You might like to listen to a recording of, or read the words of, any of the harvest hymns,

especially if you feel deprived of them if you didn't celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving at Dalmeny this year where we sang a good selection of them.

Read Psalm 103 verses 8 - 18

Prayer

As summer departs and winter approaches renew our hope, O Lord, in your life-giving presence; though the flowers of the field may pass, Lord, you endure and your love is unchanging.

May our hearts be grateful as we see the bounty of your harvest, and may our minds be hopeful as we gather seed for next year's planting.

May our eyes find joy in the beauty of autumn change and may our bodies find rest in the darkness of night.

We give thanks for shelter against chill and storm; and we ask that you would teach us Christ's compassion so we may bring comfort to those who fear they will struggle with the coming winter days.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Genesis 8 verses 13 – 22

John 12 verses 20 - 26

Reflection

Reflect briefly on some aspect of any of the readings – perhaps a phrase speaks to you. Or reflect on the changing seasons.

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 BLESSING

May God who gives the autumn colour

ENRICH OUR LIVES WITH WONDER

May God who gives the autumn harvest

SUSTAIN OUR LIVES WITH LOVE

May God who gives the autumn mist

ENFOLD OUR LIVES WITH PEACE

May God, who in Jesus shows that life comes from death, bless us with life now and for all eternity.

AMEN.