

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 3 – Lost and Found

At this time of year we sometimes bemoan the loss of the warmth and light of summer. We do well to reflect on the positive things which come in this season of autumn. Today we think of things lost and also of things found and of other things lost – temper or patience for example.

OPENING RESPONSES

Let us rejoice in our God!

Let the whole earth exalt God's holy name!

PROCLAIM GOD'S BOUNTY AND BLESSING!

PROCLAIM GOD'S GOODNESS AND PROVIDENCE!

The yield of the earth brings us good things; the season of autumn blesses us richly.

**THE GRAINS HAVE BEEN GATHERED IN AND THE
FRUITS HAVE BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER.**

LET ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY COME AND EAT. LET ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY COME AND DRINK FROM GOD'S BLESSING.

Hymn or song: Suggestions of hymns you might listen to or read are: 462: "The King of love my shepherd is" or 555: "Amazing Grace."

Read Psalm 96

Prayer

Father God, we thank you for this season of reflection when we can look back over the rebirth of spring, renewal of summer, and look ahead to the reappearance of winter.

As the leaves change colour and fall, as the harvest which was gathered in is wrapped and stored in barns, as coolness and even cold as well as changeable weather replaces the warmth and brightness we have enjoyed in the summer months, as we draw the curtains and once again rely on our heating, we thank you for the comfort of your presence, time to slow down, time to reflect.

We thank you for all that has gone before, lessons we have learned along the way, the chance to continue life's journey with hope and assurance as we prepare and await the next season in our lives.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Numbers 21 verses 1 - 9

Luke 15 verses 1 - 10

Reflection

Reflect briefly on some aspect of any of the readings – perhaps a phrase speaks to you. Or reflect on times when you might have lost something and found it – or when something has gone from your life because of changed circumstances but you have found something else. 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

Wild as an autumn gale

IS THE BLESSING OF THE MAKER

Wondrous as a winter's tale

IS THE BLESSING OF THE STORYTELLER

Wise as a falling leaf

IS THE BLESSING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Maker, Storyteller, Holy Spirit

**BLESS US NOW AND EVERMORE.
AMEN.**