

DALMENY KIRK AND QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2022

During September the theme of the Sunday services will be Seasons of Harvest. This year, more than for many years, we have seen the concern of farmers because of the unusually dry weather. We will follow these themes in Midweek services as well.

Inconveniently there are 5 Thursdays in September and only 4 Sundays. So, we'll look at Lammastide in Week 1. You might need to do a little research if this is unfamiliar to you but it's amazing what you can find! a quick Google search!!

Week 1

Lammastide

Leader:

Lift your heart, sing for joy, scatter dullness, banish sadness;

Lift your heart, sing for joy, welcome goodness, summon gladness.

In the colours of creation, see God's glory, see God's goodness,

And in joy and exaltation, lift your heart, sing for joy.

OPENING RESPONSES – based on Psalm 65

O God of our salvation, in whom all put their trust,
**YOU ESTABLISHED THE MOUNTAINS BY YOUR POWER,
YOU SILENCE THE ROARING OF THE SEAS.**

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it
abundantly.

**THE STREAMS OF GOD ARE FILLED WITH WATER TO
PROVIDE THE PEOPLE WITH CORN.**

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it
with showers and bless its crops.

**YOU CROWN THE YEAR WITH YOUR BOUNTY, THE
GRASSLANDS OF THE DESERT OVERFLOW.**

The hills are clothed with gladness, and the meadows
are covered with flocks.

**THE VALLEYS ARE MANTLED WITH CORN SO THAT
THEY SHOUT FOR JOY AND SING.**

Hymn or song: You might like to listen to a recording of,
or read the words of, Hymn 127: “O Worship the King,
all glorious above.”

Read Psalm 8

Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for the first fruits of the
harvest.

As the crops continue to ripen and are gathered, we
pray for those who work long hours, sometimes into the
night, to bring in the crop.

Bless them with good weather, but most of all bless them with a sense of your presence in all that they do.

Bountiful God, we give you thanks for our food. Bless all those who grow and prepare it, so that we may be fed. As we share our daily bread, help us never to forget the needs of all your people.

Creator God, we ask you to bless all livestock – cattle and sheep, pigs and poultry. Bless those who care for them and may we treat all the food they produce with the respect it deserves.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Deuteronomy 26 verses 1 – 4
John 6 verses 5 – 12

Reflection

This could centre round the production of our food especially given concerns about shortages and the consequent rise in prices. The lack of rain this summer has resulted in many farmers concerned how they will feed their animals in winter and whether they can even stay in business.

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 those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

May God who supplies seeds to grow and bread to eat supply us with all we need to produce a rich harvest.

**MAY GOD BLESS ALL OUR WORK AND WORSHIP, DONE
IN CHRIST'S WAY AND FOR CHRIST'S GLORY, TODAY
AND EVERY DAY.
AMEN.**