

# **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.

#### **Week 4      Harvest in Bethlehem**

##### **Leader:**

See the colours dance together, dark and bright and  
pale and strong,

Tell the story of the glory of the way we all belong.

For we all belong together – let us share God's gift as  
one,

And in living for each other, love will ever run.

##### **OPENING RESPONSES**

Come, let us praise the Lord!

**LET US SING FOR JOY TO GOD WHO PROTECTS US.**

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

**AND SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.**

For the Lord is a mighty God,  
**A MIGHTY KING OVER ALL THE GODS.**  
He rules over the whole earth,  
**FROM THE DEEPEST CAVES TO THE HIGHEST HILLS.**  
He rules over the sea which he made;  
**THE LAND ALSO WHICH HE HIMSELF FORMED.**

**Hymn or song:** You might like to listen to a recording of, or read the words of, Hymn 230: "Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field" or maybe a recording of "Bringing in the sheaves"!

**Read** Psalm 148

### **Prayer**

For the sun giving heat and light making our crops grow and ripen.

For the clouds supplying rain to water the fields and fill the rivers and streams.

Generous God

**WE THANK YOU**

For the soil feeding and holding the crops we grow.

For the seas giving fish for us to enjoy

Generous God

**WE THANK YOU.**

For the trees giving fruit from their branches and wood to make so many different things.

For the depths of the earth yielding metals and minerals.

Generous God

**WE THANK YOU.**

For Jesus who broke bread to feed a hungry crowd; who died and rose again to help us offer a harvest of kindness.

Generous God

**WE THANK YOU**

O Lord, you have given us so much. We thank you for all your kindness. Help us to be fruitful in our lives.

May there be a great harvest of good from the love you have shown us.

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

**OUR FATHER**

**Read:** Ruth 1 verse 6 and 2 verses 1 – 13

Matthew 13 verses 31 - 33

### **Reflection**

I chose one part of the Book of Ruth, but you might choose a different part of the story. You might concentrate on the theme of Harvest or on another part of the story with Harvest as the backdrop. 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 PRAYER – SAID BY ALL**

**MAY WE BE THE BLESSING:**

**MAY WE BE THE JUSTICE IN THE HARVEST, THE  
SHARING IN THE COMMUNITY, THE HOPE IN THE  
NEIGHBOURHOOD.**

**MAY OUR GIFT OF SELF BE A BLESSING TO MANY.**

**MAY WE BE THE CHANGE THE WORLD NEEDS:**

**THE LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS, THE TRUTH IN THE  
DARKNESS, THE HEALING IN THE HURT.**

**MAY OUR GIFT OF SELF BE A BLESSING TO MANY.**

**FOR WE NEED TO BE NO OTHER THAN OURSELVES. IT  
IS ENOUGH.**