

# **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 5      Harvest Thanksgiving**

##### **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 – from Psalm 104**

O Lord our God how great you are; all the world depends on you:

**PRAISE THE LORD OUR GOD!**

You make trees and grasses grow; you provide the food we need:

**PRAISE THE LORD OUR GOD!**

Seed to harvest, wheat to bread, all our gladness comes from you:

**PRAISE THE LORD OUR GOD!**

We will sing to the Lord all our days; may our worship bring you joy:

**PRAISE THE LORD OUR GOD!**

**Hymn or song:** You might like to listen to a recording of, or read the words of any of a number of harvest hymns/songs which appear in various compilations, including CH4.

**Read** Psalm 126

### **Prayer**

Loving God, we come this day to praise you, to celebrate your great goodness. We come with thanksgiving, joy and wonder, reminding ourselves of the richness of your creation, and acknowledging your faithfulness in providing for all our needs, and far more beyond.

You have blessed us beyond our deserving

**GLADLY WE REJOICE.**

Loving God, for the beauty of the seasons, the constant cycle of day and night, and the vital gifts of rain and sunshine, we praise you.

You have blessed us beyond our deserving

**GLADLY WE REJOICE**

For the miracle of growth, the wonder of life, and the incredible variety of harvest, we bring you our thanksgiving.

You have blessed us beyond our deserving

**GLADLY WE REJOICE**

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

**OUR FATHER**

**Read:** Joel 2 verses 21 – 27

Matthew 6 verses 25 - 35

**Reflection**

Harvest Thanksgiving has a different emphasis in different areas. In rural areas there is still a traditional emphasis to the festival and it still sometimes the farmers who determine when Harvest Thanksgiving should take place.

This week could provide an opportunity to think about places where there can be no celebration because there is no harvest.

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**

In our sowing and our harvesting,  
In our cooking and our eating:

**LET US**

**TILL THE EARTH GENTLY,**

**FISH THE SEAS WISELY,**

**TEND THE ANIMALS LOVINGLY,**

**SHARE WITH THE HUNGRY GENEROUSLY,**

**PAY THE WORKER FAIRLY,**

**ENJOY THE FOOD THANKFULLY,**

**PRAISE THE GIVER ABUNDANTLY.**

So may the Father who provides for all creatures, the Son who encompasses all his mercy, the Spirit who gives breath to all living things bless our lives with goodness and guide us in generous living.

**AMEN**