

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

MARCH 2021

During March we are in the season of Lent. The themes we are following on Sundays are not specifically focussed on Lent and so the four Midweek services will focus more closely on Lenten themes.

Week 1 – Temptation

Leader:

O Christ who entered into the lonely desert, and who, facing hunger, danger and temptation, did not turn aside but affirmed the way of self-giving love, strengthen us to resist the false attraction of easy answers, magic fixes, abuses of power, and the delusion that there is any way, apart from putting our trust in you, that God's justice can be done.

Opening Responses

Creator God, walking in the garden

BREATHE LIFE INTO US

Tempted God, praying in the desert

BREATHE LIFE INTO US

Holy God, travelling towards the city

BREATHE LIFE INTO US

Mysterious God, maker and encourager

SURPRISE US WITH ANGELS

Revealing God, questioner and caller

SURPRISE US WITH STORIES

Breathing God, dancer and delighter

SURPRISE US WITH JOY

Read: Genesis 3 verses 1 – 6

You may wish to include a piece of music or something visual here.

Read: Psalm 51

Prayer

As we contemplate the beauty of a time of solitude; as we crave the beauty of peace; as we long for the tranquillity of space in which we can meet and commune with God;

Especially in this time of lockdown and enforced solitude for many we bring to God those whose days seem endless, whose lives seem too full of quiet, who long for the clamour and noise of family around and for the voices of those whom they have lost, and who long for tasks to fill up their days.

We bring to God those filled with bitterness and resentment at brutality and injustice; those whom God welcomes and longs to cradle in love.

As we contemplate the austerity of giving things up for Lent, we bring to God those who experience real poverty and need day after day after day.

We give thanks that the Christ of the wilderness slows his step so that he can walk alongside all who are bowed down with the heavy burden that life has become.

We give thanks that the Christ of the wilderness offers food for the journey, healing for the road, strength for the weary, comfort for the sorrowing, grace, peace and love.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 4 verses 1 - 11

Reflection

Reflect for a few minutes on temptation. You might reflect on the temptations around in the garden of Eden, or on the Gospel passage and how Jesus was tempted. Was he really tempted if he was the Son of God? Or you might reflect, and invite others to reflect, on the temptations which face us in the modern world. 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 in particular for how Church might look when we come out of lockdown; **for all who feel tempted and for those who find difficulty in resisting temptations around them, perhaps especially young people who face peer pressure**; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Wherever we travel

GOD IS ON OUR TRACK

Wherever we settle

GOD IS IN OUR MIDST

Whatever is ahead of us

GOD WILL BE THERE BEFORE US

God's angels are among us

TO KEEP US IN ALL OUR WAYS

THANKS BE TO GOD.