

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 2 – A new start – or Being born again

Leader:

O Christ, as you were lifted up upon the cross, exposed for all the world to see, and to sneer at you and abandon you, give us courage not to abandon those who are exposed by poverty, unemployment or stigma, and give us faith to believe that we may be born again in the spirit of love.

Opening Responses

God watches over our waking and sleeping

**OUR HELP COMES FROM GOD WHO MADE HEAVEN
AND EARTH**

God saves our feet from slipping and stumbling

**OUR HELP COMES FROM GOD WHO MADE HEAVEN
AND EARTH**

God keeps guard over our comings and goings

OUR HELP COMES FROM GOD WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH

Read: Genesis 12 verses 1 – 4

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

Read: Psalm 121

Prayer

Lord God, our companion along the road, enter with us into the uncertainty and the loneliness of desolation, that through our wanderings and reflections we too may choose the path of uncertainty and travel with those who have left behind home and security.

HEAR US IN YOUR MERCY

AND STRENGTHEN US TO DO YOUR WILL.

Lord God who sustains us, strengthen our resolve to seek bread which nourishes and sustains, that through our resistance of instant satisfaction we may learn to value what we take for granted and seek solidarity with those who have nothing.

HEAR US IN YOUR MERCY

AND STRENGTHEN US TO DO YOUR WILL.

Lord God, our cross bearer, challenge us to take up our cross and to choose the narrow path so that on our journey we may learn the path of discipleship.

**HEAR US IN YOUR MERCY
AND STRENGTHEN US TO DO YOUR WILL.**

Lord God, our challenger, stir up our lives and shatter our complacency, that through the people we meet and the life stories we share we may be challenged to change and moved to action.

**HEAR US IN YOUR MERCY
AND STRENGTHEN US TO DO YOUR WILL
AND LET OUR LIVES REFLECT YOUR PURPOSE.**

Hear us now as we pray in your Son's words, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: John 3 verses 1 - 17

Reflection

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

You could reflect on what the Gospel passage means when it talks about “being born again”, or any other aspect of the passage, OR you could reflect on situations when you have had to begin something new and out of your comfort zone, and how that made you feel. Then encourage others to share their experiences and reflections.

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; **for people embarking on new ventures or new life experiences; for those afraid of change; for those who have recently come to faith;** for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

Adventurous God, travelling lightly

BREATHE IN US

Courageous God, confronting injustice

BREATHE IN US

Mysterious God, blowing wildly

BREATHE IN US

Pilgrim God, light in our darkness

BREATHE IN US

ALL OUR NIGHTS AND DAYS

AMEN.