

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

JUNE 2021

During the month of June we will look at 4 of the minor prophets to see what they have to say to us today. We are beginning with Joel. It would be good if you could read the whole of this short book before we "meet." This material is for 3rd June.

Week 1 – Dreams and Visions

Leader:

Taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed are all those who put their trust in him.

OPENING RESPONSES – based on Psalm 65

O God it is right for us to praise you:

YOU ARE THE ONE WHO ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS.

You care for the land and water it:

YOU MAKE IT RICH AND FERTILE.

You fill the running streams with water:

YOU IRRIGATE THE LAND.

You soften the ground with showers:

YOU MAKE THE YOUNG CROPS GROW.

You crown the year with your goodness:

YOU GIVE US A PLENTIFUL HARVEST.

The pastures are filled with flocks:

THE HILLSIDES ARE CLOTHED WITH JOY.

The fields are covered with grain:

THEY SHOUT FOR JOY AND SING.

Hymn or song: You might like to listen to a recording of, or read the words of, Hymn 153: "Great is thy faithfulness."

Read Psalm 27

Prayer

Gracious God, for your love for us, gentle as a shower,
healing our pain, binding up our wounds,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS.

For your love for us, sure as the dawn, transforming our
darkness, revealing your truth,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS.

For your love for us, mercifully steadfast, calling us to
you, raising us up,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS.

For your love for us, encouraging questions, open to our
doubts, making us vulnerable,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS.

For your steadfast love has brought us to faith.
Your steadfast love has cradled a new creation.
Your reconciling power has brought to birth a new
ministry.

Urge us on, O Christ, to find wholeness through serving
you by serving others, in the power of the Spirit.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Joel 2 verses 23 – 32

Mark 13 verses 24 - 27

Reflection

Reflect for a maximum of 5 – 7 minutes.

This is what I wrote last year. I think it is even more pertinent this year:

The Covid 19 pandemic has caused many people to think in different ways. Some of that is because we have had to act in different ways and that is certainly true of the Church. You might want to consider what dreams and/or visions you have for yourselves as we go forward and also what dreams/visions you have for the life of the Church. Are there things to learn from lockdown experiences and practices to help us fulfil those dreams and visions?

That is only one suggestion of how to look at Joel. You will have lots of other ideas.

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

This meditation might help your thinking:

Dreams and Visions

Dreams can be worked at.

Dreams can become reality.

Remember Martin Luther King?
Remember his dream?

Dreams,
Visions,
Hopes,
Yearnings.

What are your dreams:
For yourself
For your friends
For your family?

What are your dreams:
For your Church
For your community
For your country?

What are your dreams:
For the environment
For the world's children
For peace?

Dreams.
Plans.
Possibilities.
Longings.

Take time for thinking
Take time for looking

Take time for listening
Take time to dream.

From "Fig Trees and Furnaces" edited by Ruth Burgess
and published by the Iona Community.

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

Now is the time for the good wine
pressed from the fruit of the tree.

Now is the time for rejoicing
in the place where the feast will be.

O TASTE AND SEE AND REFRESH US WITH LOVE.

Leave all the cares of the growing
just let the mystery sing,
magic of ripening and pruning
and the fullness that time will bring.

O TASTE AND SEE AND REFRESH US WITH LOVE.

Sweet-tasting cup of our loving
Promise of pleasure and pain.
Taste it and drink of it deeply
For the new life it will contain.

O TASTE AND SEE AND REFRESH US WITH LOVE.