

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

AUGUST

Again keeping an eye on the Bible in a Year plan I find it provides for us covering Psalms and Proverbs on one Sunday – and it is also All Saints' Day! So, in August we'll look at 4 Psalms. The choice is huge and all of us would have chosen different Psalms. I had to whittle down my original list by a lot – and several times!

In each case I have chosen the passage from the Gospels which appears in the Lectionary on the same Sunday as the chosen Psalm.

Psalm 46 is the Psalm set down for Remembrance Sunday.

Week 2 – Psalm 46

God is with us

Leader:

How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, the news of peace! Break into shouts of joy, you ruins of Jerusalem! The Lord will rescue his city and comfort his people. (Isaiah 52 verse 7 and verse 9)

OPENING RESPONSES

GOD IS OUR SHELTER, OUR SAFE HOME. GOD HELPS US WHEN WE ARE IN TROUBLE.

When things around us change we need not be afraid.

GOD IS WHERE WE LIVE, IN OUR VILLAGE, OUR TOWN OUR CITY.

God is stronger than fighting and wars.

GOD IS STRONGER THAN WINDS AND STORMS.

Be still and know God's peace inside you. Be still and know God's love.

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US. GOD IS OUR SHELTER AND OUR SAFE HOME.

Hymn or song:

There are versions of Psalm 46 at Nos. 36 and 37 in CH4.

There are also versions of "Be still and know that I am God" at Nos. 754 and 755.

Psalm 46 is also the Biblical text for Martin Luther's hymn "A safe stronghold our God is still." (454 in CH4)

Read Psalm 46

Prayer

Lord God, in this time of summer we give thanks for warm days and for long days, especially as we now have greater freedom to go out and enjoy your world. We give thanks for the opportunity of time away from work and routine even if extensive travel is not yet a possibility.

We give thanks that the rhythm of life is returning to being familiar even if not what we have always called “normal.”

We give thanks for the ways in which we have been able to worship over recent months and look forward to being able to worship together in person.

We give thanks for the words we read in the Scriptures and in particular in the Psalms. In them we find comfort and assurance; we find confidence and love; and we find that the writers of the Psalms expressed anger to God and so we know that you understand our anger.

We give thanks for the gift of Jesus to our world and for all we know of his life and death and resurrection – and for all we know of his teaching.

Forgive us Lord when we turn from you. Forgive us when we fail to remember that you are the one true God, supreme among the nations.

We confess that often we are too busy to be still; too ready to anger; too slow to forgive and seek peace.

We bring this prayer of confession to you, repenting of the things we have done which we should not have done and the things we have not done which we should have done.

Give us a willingness to turn again to you and to know that you are God.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: John 15 verses 9 - 17

Reflection

Reflect for 5 – 7 minutes. **Please keep within that time frame!**

Various possible themes come to mind: Trust in God; confidence in God in an unstable world; God as refuge; assertion that there is only one God; a call to stop fighting.

This part of the service might involve music or a short drama; it might involve the use of “props” or something else 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 how we move forward with worship in our churches; for those who are sick at this time; for all health workers and carers; for those whose income is uncertain; for our country as we move forward from the coronavirus crisis;** for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING BLESSING (said together)

**Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace to the Son of peace to you.**