

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

DECEMBER 2021

Week 3 – The Lights of Christmas

Leader: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Opening responses

Be with us, God, in stillness and quiet corners.

**HELP US TO BE LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS, LIGHTS THAT
BURN BRAVELY IN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR LOVE.**

Hear our prayers, God, our yearnings, our concerns, our questions.

**HELP US TO BE LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS, LIGHTS THAT
BURN BRAVELY IN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR LOVE.**

Be in us, God, in our work, our calling, our journeys, our wondering.

**HELP US TO BE LIGHTS IN THE DARKNESS, LIGHTS THAT
BURN BRAVELY IN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR LOVE.**

Perhaps read a Christmas hymn at this point

Read: Luke 1 verse 46 - 56

Prayer

Living God, you spoke and the world was brought into being – the heavens and the earth, the sea and dry land, night and day, life in all its variety and abundance.

You spoke again in the book of the law, the poetry of the psalms, the wisdom of the teacher, the chronicling of history and the message of the prophets, revealing your will, proclaiming your purpose.

You spoke through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, through those who witnessed to his life and ministry, and those who shared in the building of his Church.

You have spoken throughout history, through preaching and teaching, through study and quiet devotion, through prayer and fellowship, through the wonder of this world, and still you speak today, your word ever old but always new, able to renew, redeem and restore.

Speak to us now, we pray.

Lighten our darkness and help us to use the remainder of this season of Advent to listen carefully to your voice, and so to walk with you more closely this and every day.

And now hear us as we pray in Jesus' words, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 1 verses 18 - 25

John 1 verses 1 - 5

Reflection

Today could be a reflection on the lights of Christmas, on the lights that have shone in our own times of darkness; on the light of the world.

OR it could be a reflection on the fact that some people find Christmas a dark time.

Or it could be anything else the leader would like to do!

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world; for the communities in which we live; for the Church in our land and for our congregations in Dalmeny and Queensferry; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

We will watch and we will wait

WITH THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED, AND WITH ALL WHO YEARN FOR JUSTICE.

We will watch and we will wait,

WITH THE SICK AND WITH THE DYING AND WITH ALL WHO LONG FOR HEALING.

We will watch and we will wait,

WITH THE LOST AND THOSE IN DARKNESS AND WITH ALL WHO HOPE FOR FREEDOM.

We will watch and we will wait

FOR, SEEN OR UNSEEN, WE KNOW THAT GOD IS PRESENT.

This material has been adapted from “Candles and Conifers” and “Winter”, both Wild Goose Publications and from a Christian Aid publication called “Shine on, star of Bethlehem”