

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2022

This material is adapted a little from the material used last February. It is amazing how relevant the themes are a year on. The overall theme is **“Hope and Renewal in times of Change.”** We are in a time of uncertainty in our country and there is still a degree of fear regarding Covid. In the Church of Scotland Presbyteries are undergoing major structural changes. There are also structural changes in the central administration of the Church. Congregations are facing changes because of Presbytery planning. We also face a shortage of Ministers and many congregations find it difficult to recruit office-bearers and other leaders.

Week 4 – Promised Land

Leader:

The Lord says: When the time comes, I will answer the prayers of my people.

Opening Responses

I will betroth you to myself forever

**WITH INTEGRITY AND JUSTICE, WITH TENDERNESS
AND LOVE**

I will betroth you to myself with faithfulness

AND YOU WILL COME TO KNOW ME

I will say: You are my people

AND WE WILL ANSWER: YOU ARE OUR GOD

For once you were outside mercy

BUT NOW YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN MERCY

THIS IS OUR HOPE, OUR LIVING HOPE. WE SHALL BE GLAD.

Leader:

The Lord says: When the time comes, heaven and earth will answer each other and I will love the unloved.

Read: Joshua 4 verses 1 – 7 and 19 - 25

Here include a hymn or song or other music with a theme of gladness and joy in keeping with reaching the Promised Land

Read: Psalm 105 verses 1 - 11

Prayer

Lord God, we bless you for the infinite beauty of created things: sand, wind wave; animals and birds; we bless you for the love of land and people; for the vine and the fruit and the good wine. We bless you for the endurance of hope; for the promise of renewal; and for fleeting moments on the mountaintop.

BLESSED ARE YOU LORD GOD OF ALL CREATION

But if we have forgotten those who bear the marks of exile or desert, or suffering or injustice upon their hands

and feet and in their hearts, and we have allowed them to go on suffering, and thus failed them and you, Lord **HAVE MERCY ON US, GOD WHO BRINGS US DOWN TO EARTH, WHO GROUNDS US IN JUSTICE AND WHO ROOTS US IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS. GIVE FLESH TO OUR WORDS AND WORSHIP WITH THE BREATH AND PEACE OF YOUR SPIRIT UNTIL JOY IS OUR ONLY HOLY COMMON GROUND.**

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

Read: John 15 verses 16 - 17

Reflection

This should take the form of a short introduction from the leader. **You could discuss what the idea of Promised Land means to you and what the scripture passages say about it.**

This part of the service might involve music; it might involve the use of something visual; **as symbols of the Promised Land you might use milk and honey, or fruit or flowers; or you might use something that makes a joyful noise;** 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 things going on in our congregations; **for communities and nations; for stewardship of the**

earth; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

Look at your hands; see the touch and the tenderness

GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD

Look at your feet; see the path and the direction

GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD

Look at your heart; see the fire and the love

GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD

Look at the cross; see God's son and our saviour

GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD

This is God's world

WE WILL SERVE GOD IN IT.

AMEN.

This material has been adapted from "The Pattern of our Days" edited by Kathy Galloway, a Wild Goose Publication.