

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

JANUARY 2022

Week 2 – Putting Herod back into Christmas

Leader:

We talk about putting Christ back into Christmas but we also need to put Herod back into Christmas because if we leave him out the story is not complete. Terrible things happen in our world and we may ask where is God when these things happen. Where was God when Herod killed the innocent little boys? Where is God when children suffer?

Opening Responses

When children are abused

YOU SHARE OUR ANGER

When children are in pain

YOU SHARE OUR DISTRESS

When children are murdered

YOU SHARE OUR HORROR

When children die

YOU SHARE OUR DESPAIR

You might like to read a hymn or a poem possibly about suffering or wholeness and healing

Read: Psalm 124

Prayer

Lord God we come to worship you and give you our praise and thanks. There is so much in your world that demands our praise; mountains and hills; oceans and rivers; trees and plants. And yet, Lord, as we look around at your creation we cannot help but think about bad things which happen in your world and we wonder where you are when these things happen. We want answers and we confess that, when we don't find them, our faith is shaken.

We look at suffering in your world and we can't help but ask why it happens. Help us to see that you are beside those who suffer; help them to feel your presence and help us to be your presence to those who suffer.

We pray especially for children who suffer from illness and we pray for parents who have to watch their children suffering; and we pray for children who suffer abuse, especially when it comes from those who should love them most.

We hold before you any children known to us who are sick or in pain; those who are neglected or mistreated; those who will be forever affected by childhood experiences:

SILENCE

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 2 verses 13 - 18

Reflection

This should take the form of a sort reflection by the leader. It might be about the Herod story in the Bible or about our struggle to understand suffering in God's world.

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

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for our NHS coping in this time of winter; for residents and staff in care homes; for the Church and those who minister in any capacity; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

We are called

TO LIVE IN LIGHT

We are called

TO LIVE IN JUSTICE

We are called

TO WALK WITH GOD

**GOD OF EARTH AND HEAVEN, IN TIMES OF PAIN AND
IN TIMES OF PLENTY, WE SEEK YOUR BLESSING.**

**LAY YOUR HANDS ON US IN LOVE AND GIVE GOOD
GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN.**

**IN JESUS' NAME AND IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT WE PRAY. AMEN.**

