

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

JULY

Looking ahead in the Bible in a Year plan I see that on one Sunday in September we plan to cover Second Corinthians to Philemon – and it is also Harvest Thanksgiving! - so I thought it would be good during July Midweek services to look at 5 of those books. That still leaves plenty scope for whoever is conducting the service (or services?) on that day.

In each of the weeks I have chosen a passage from that week's letter but please don't feel restricted to that. Something else in the letter might strike you. In a perfect world we will all read the whole of each letter before we meet!

Week 2 – Ephesians – Living in the Light

Leader:

O God, we do not always know why we are here.
We are often unsure of our purpose on earth.
Sometimes we hope to catch a glimpse of who you are through the eyes of **your** startling vision which images **us** as your caring compassionate people.

OPENING RESPONSES

Let us arise to meet the light:

THE LIGHT IS CHRIST.

Let us rejoice in the hope of each new day:

OUR HOPE IS FIXED ON CHRIST.

Let us awaken to reality:

CHRIST IS THE REAL LIGHT.

Let us travel on into the light:

THE LIGHT FOR OUR PATH IS CHRIST.

Hymn or song: You might like to read Hymn 748: “Through saints we glimpse the light of Christ” or the first verse and chorus of 543: “Longing for light we wait in darkness” or “The Spirit lives to set us free” which can be found in Mission Praise or Songs of God’s People.

Read Psalm 119 verses 105 - 112

Prayer

Lord, you make the light shine out of darkness; you make the sun rise on each and every one of us; you give us Christ, the world’s light.

Your light is beyond our imagining yet, through Christ our Lord, we know you, present here in love and power; and we lift our hearts to praise you.

We confess that we are not the people we like others to think we are, but we do not want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are and yet you love us. There is nothing we can hide from you and humbly we recall those things in which we come

short of the standard set for us by Jesus. We are more often concerned for ourselves than for others. Our faith and our calling to serve you and other people are too often far from the centre of our thinking. Sometimes we live and act as if you were not part of our lives at all. Forgive us we pray and bring us to new peace and wholeness.

Lord, open our eyes to your presence, open our ears to your call, open our hearts to your love; that we may give ourselves to you and walk before you as children of light; through him who is the light of the world.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Ephesians Chapter 5 verses 6 - 14
John Chapter 9 verses 35 - 41

Reflection

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

You might want to reflect on different ways in which we see. Sometimes we see with our eyes and sometimes we see with our understanding. You might want to compare living in darkness with living in the light. Or you might think about spiritual blindness and what that means.

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.

You might want to use this short meditation as part of a reflection. It comes from Tom Gordon in “Welcoming each wonder.”

To see

To look and see,
and enjoy the seeing,
and marvel at the beauty.

To look and see,
and enjoy the imagining,
and marvel at the mystery.

To look and see,
and enjoy more than the seeing,
and marvel at unfolding pictures.

To look and see,
and enjoy the imagining,
and wonder why that couldn't be seen before.

To look and see,
and enjoy the seeing,
and marvel at the unfathomable beauty.

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 PRAYER

LORD, GRANT US YOUR EYES, THAT WE MAY LOOK ON THE HEART;

GRANT US YOUR WILL TO ENABLE US TO TRUST;

GRANT US YOUR EARS THAT WE MAY BE ATTUNED TO YOUR LEADING;

GRANT US YOUR HEART THAT WE MAY ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR YOU THERE.

AMEN.