

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 3 – Philippians – Christ's Humility and Greatness

Leader:

Praise the Lord!

Give thanks to the Lord because he is good; his love is eternal.

Who can tell all the great things he has done? Who can praise him enough?

Happy are those who obey his commands, who always do what is right.

(From Psalm 106)

OPENING RESPONSES

Sovereign God, we want to serve you:

TEACH US TO BE OBEDIENT

Healing Saviour, we want to keep faith with you:

TEACH US TO HONOUR YOU IN EVERYTHING WE DO

Gracious Spirit, we want to receive you:

TEACH US TO OBEY YOUR COMMANDMENTS IN WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE

Hymn or song: You might like to read Hymn 356: “Meekness and majesty” or 536: “May the mind of Christ my Saviour.”

Read Psalm 25 verses 1 - 10

Prayer

Lord God of creation, you generously give us life and you give us freedom:

WE WORSHIP AND ADORE YOU.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to live on earth to live our life and you died our death in compassion for us:

WE WORSHIP AND ADORE YOU.

Spirit of knowledge and power, you lead us in the way of humble self-giving

WE WORSHIP AND ADORE YOU.

We bring before you the shortcomings of our lives and the disappointments of our hearts.

We come to you, Lord, with the burden of our own sins: Selfishness, pride, greed, insensitivity.

Jesus says: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden

AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

We come to you, Lord, with the sins of our community: Neglect of those who are lonely; poverty; prejudice.

Jesus says: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden

AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

We come to you, Lord, with the burden of the sins of the world:

Famine, injustice, abuse of power.

Jesus says: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden

AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.

Forgive us, we pray, that we may be restored and renewed and may live to your praise and glory.

Lord, as you came down to lift us up, help us to show

sympathy and compassion to others. Give to your

Church a sense of service and humility. May we be

obedient to you, seeking to do your will at all times.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Philippians 2 verses 5 - 11

Philippians 4 verses 4 - 9

Reflection

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

You might want to reflect on either of the passages from the letter to the Philippians. The passage in Chapter 2 talks very eloquently about the self-emptying of God in taking on servant status and the passage in Chapter 4 talks about the need for faithfulness to Christ - “Stand firm in the Lord.” The overarching theme is that Jesus came to be like us so that we might be like him. 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 words from Graham Kendrick’s hymn **“From heaven you came, helpless babe.”**

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.
*This is our God, the servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other’s needs to prefer,

for it is Christ we're serving.
*This is our God, the servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

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 RESPONSES

In thanks for your grace,

WE PRAISE YOU, CREATOR GOD.

In thanks for your humility,

WE PRAISE YOU, SAVIOUR CHRIST.

In thanks for your abundant blessing

WE PRAISE YOU, GENEROUS SPIRIT.