

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 4 – Colossians – The Old Life and the New

Leader:

Grant us, Lord, the vision to seek the things above, and to set our minds on those things that come from you. May we live as people who are sensitive to those who have not been awakened to your love and to your will for them.

May we always be aware of your glory and may our lives reveal it to all.

OPENING RESPONSES

Come God, come walk with your people for you alone are our strength and glory

AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU

Come God, come walk behind us, before us, for you alone are our shelter and direction

AND WE PUT OR TRUST IN YOU

Come God, come seek and find us and put us right for you alone are our light in the darkness

AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU

Come God, we know you are near and the sound of your footsteps sets us dancing

AND WE PUT OUR TRUST IN YOU.

Hymn or song: You might like to read Hymn 198: “Let us build a house” or 694: “Brother, sister, let me serve you.”

Read Psalm 148

Prayer

God of the high and holy places where we catch a glimpse of your glory; above the low times in life and the things which drag us down; beyond the limits of our senses and imagination,

YOU LIFT US UP.

In the splendour of a sunset, in the silence of the stars;

In the grandeur of the mountains, in the vastness of the ocean,

YOU LIFT US UP.

In the majesty of music, in the mystery of art;
In the freshness of the morning, in the fragrance of a flower,

YOU LIFT US UP.

Lord, sometimes when we know we have not followed in the path to which you have called us, we hide from you. We confess that sometimes we think you don't notice.

When we creep away from what we should be doing or wander off from those who need us you see us and you are sad. We are sorry for those times when our actions, or our failure to act, make you weep.

Jesus found time for people and he sat and listened and learned about them. We confess that we are more likely to grumble or argue. Sometimes we indulge in wasteful daydreaming or worry rather than helping others.

Forgive us and come and find us when we are hiding.

Compassionate God: **CLOTHE US WITH YOUR COMPASSION**

Kind God: **CLOTHE US WITH YOUR KINDNESS**

Humble God: **CLOTHE US WITH YOUR HUMILITY**

Merciful God: **CLOTHE US WITH YOUR MERCY**

Patient God: **CLOTHE US WITH YOUR PATIENCE**

And may we forgive others as you forgive us.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Colossians 3 verses 5 - 17

Reflection

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

The Colossians passage is about the distinctiveness of the Christian life. Paul talks about the things to “put off” and the things to “put on.” This could be a starting point for a reflection. What virtues do we need to cultivate? How should what we say and do in Church sit alongside the rest of our lives? 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.

Here’s a little reflection based on Colossians 3 verse 16 you could use. It is called “The Medium is the Message” and comes from “Turning but a Stone” by Edmund Banyard.

Was he a good man? A truly good man?

To many people Jesus was a law-breaker and a blasphemer; they didn’t think him good. He turned accepted standards upside down.

Men and women stood aghast that he cared so little for ecclesiastical rules and traditions; that he cared so much for the outcast, the despised; for the man whose business ethics were unacceptable; for the woman who sold herself for a momentary substitute for love.

The medium is not always the message, yet medium and message were one in him.

The question "Was he a good man?" becomes irrelevant; he upset the existing order and good became what he was.

To this day it is not a rule but an experience; not a code for living but a life; not words, however carefully they may be chosen, but

THE WORD MADE FLESH,
medium and message in one.

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 WORDS SAID TOGETHER
THE PEACE THAT CHRIST GIVES US IS TO GUIDE US IN
THE DECISIONS WE MAKE; FOR IT IS TO THIS PEACE
THAT GOD HAS CALLED US TOGETHER IN THE ONE
BODY. AND BE THANKFUL.**