

# **QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH**

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

### **MAY 2022 – WEEK 3**

Christian Aid Week this year is from 15<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May. This year many fund-raising events will be taking place which have not been possible over the past 2 years.

The leader may wish to look at the Christian Aid website for different ideas from those below..

### **Week 3 – Christian Aid – Life before death**

#### **Leader:**

In Christian Aid we acknowledge that we are part of a global community. We are neighbours near and far and many in the world are still suffering the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. In addition many are suffering as a result of the world-wide economic downturn. May our shared experience unite us in praise and prayer as one human family separate but together in the house that is God's world.

#### **Opening Sentences**

**GOD OF ALL THE EARTH**

**BE PRESENT WITH US NOW,**

**IN EACH OF OUR HOMES AS WE CONNECT TOGETHER.**

**BUILD US INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE,**

**A HOLY PRIESTHOOD,**

**OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES  
ACCEPTABLE TO YOU  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST  
OUR RISEN REDEEMER AND HEALER.**

**Read:** 1 Peter 2 verses 4 - 9

**Hymn or song:** Suggested hymns to read are: 198 “Let us build a house where love can dwell”, which is a reminder that the Church is never a building, and 189 “Be still, for the presence of the Lord”

**Read** Psalm 31

**Prayer**

God our Lord, we come to you with open hands, some of us with hearts full of questions about why so many people suffered or died from Covid and why we are still facing large numbers of infections, although we give thanks that the numbers are decreasing. Some of us may be bruised by bereavement, many of us are fearful of what the future holds in terms of economic recovery and because of rising prices for so many items which are not luxuries. Draw close to us now as we place our honest questions and hopes into your open, resurrected, yet scarred hands.

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

With the honesty of the psalmist, the wrestling questions of Job and the lament of the prophets, we bring to you our questions in silence

**SILENCE**

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

In this season of Easter, travelling towards Pentecost, renew us with resurrection hope that, while weeping lingers in this night, joy will come in the morning.

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

In this Christian Aid week we pray for and with communities across the world who are very vulnerable; those in refugee camps and city slums; those with limited facilities to wash and keep clean. In particular we remember the people of Ukraine where resources of food and water and medicine cannot keep up with demand.

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

We pray for Christian Aid partners who are working in difficult situations to provide help and materials to ensure better hygiene, and who seek ways in which to help communities to grow food in a sustainable way.

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

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

**OUR FATHER**

**Read:** John 14 verses 1 - 14

### **Reflection**

Reflect for no more than **5 minutes**. There is lots of material about the work of Christian Aid online to stimulate your imagination!

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

### **Prayer**

This is a time for prayers for the world; for the work of Christian Aid and those most in need of their help; for the communities in which we live; for the Church and those who minister here in any capacity; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

### **CLOSING BLESSING**

**MAY THE PRESENCE OF THE CREATOR REFRESH YOU  
MAY THE COMFORT OF THE SON RENEW YOU  
MAY THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT RESTORE  
YOU  
TO BE LOVE IN ACTION, EVEN FROM A DISTANCE, IN  
OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS, NEAR AND FAR, THIS DAY  
AND FOR EVERMORE. AMEN.**

I have adapted material from various Christian Aid resources for this service.