

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

### MAY

I originally said we would do The Way, the Truth and the Life this week and then realised we would be in Christian Aid week. They have chosen the same lessons as they are the Lectionary readings for Sunday coming. This year it is not possible to hold fund-raising events, although there will be material available to hold an online fund-raising quiz. This material is for 14<sup>th</sup> May and is adapted from a suggestion for a virtual Christian Aid service.

The leader may wish to look at the Christian Aid material and use it differently.

### **Week 2 – Christian Aid – Life before death**

#### **Leader:**

Christian Aid week needs to be done differently this year. We can still acknowledge that we are part of a global community. We are neighbours near and far going through this coronavirus pandemic together. 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 PRIESTHOD,  
OFFERING SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES  
ACCEPTABLE TO YOU  
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST  
OUR RISEN REDEEMER AND HEALER.**

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

**Hymn or song:** singing is a bit challenging by zoom!  
Suggested hymns to read are: 198 “Let us build a house where love can dwell”, which is a reminder that we are finding at this time – more than ever - that Church is not 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, some of us bruised by bereavement, some of us fearful of what the future holds and all of us stunned by the events of this year. Draw close to us now in each of our homes 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**

Hear the cry of our hearts, Lord, silent and aloud, for bereaved neighbours near and far. Comfort those pained by being absent and hold close those who are hurting alone.

**SILENCE**

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

In this season of Easter 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 most vulnerable to coronavirus; those in refugee camps and city slums; those with limited facilities to wash hands and limited opportunities to isolate from others.

God in your mercy

**HEAR OUR PRAYER**

We pray for Christian Aid partners who are working to provide soap and buckets, and who are communicating

clear accurate information to the most vulnerable and ensuring they are kept as safe as possible.

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 5 – 7 minutes. There is lots of material about the work of Christian Aid online to stimulate your imagination!

One of the suggestions is to think about hand washing and how, in Scripture, it is closely associated with innocence and cleansing from sin. (Suggested scriptures: Exodus 30 verses 17 – 21; Psalm 26 verse 6; Job 9 verse 30; Matthew 27 verse 24 and James 4 verse 8)

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.

If you choose to look at hand washing you might like to use this meditative prayer:

As we turn on the tap we turn our hands towards you, O God.

As we wet our hands renew our thoughts so we might be transformed.

As we lather soap between fingers and over all our hands, purge from us all that brings us harm and might harm others.

Remove the invisible guilt and shame that so often keep us from you.

As we rinse our hands we trust in your overflowing grace making all things new.

Amen.

### **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 those who are sick at this time, whether with coronavirus or other illnesses; for all health workers and carers; for those whose income is uncertain;** 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.**