

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2021

### Week 3 – Prisoners' Week

#### Leader:

He sent me to give the good news to the poor,  
tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more;  
tell blind people that they can see,  
and set the downtrodden free,  
and go tell everyone the news that the kingdom of God  
has come. (34 in Songs of God's People)

#### Opening Responses

Christ is our peace

**HE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE HOSTILITY BETWEEN US**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor  
female

**WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS**

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself

**HE CALLS US TO BE RECONCILERS**

We are the body of Christ

**WE ARE MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER**

We are all part of the community of God's people

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES OF GOD'S LOVE**

(from the Corrymeela Community)

**Read:** Psalm 19 verses 7 - 14

**Prayer**

Lord God, we know that you go before us, but often we have sought you and not found you. Often we have felt alone and lamented your distance from us. Yet, Lord, you have always been there and you are here now. Help us to recognise you when you show yourself but we are too blind to notice. Give us the confidence to believe that at turning points, beginnings and endings, you watch over us despite being out of our sight. You are God at no-one's beck and call, yet in this time of worship you are with each one of us. Glory be to God.

Merciful God, before we can know your renewing grace, we seek your forgiveness.

We are sorry for the times someone stretched out a hand and we pretended not to notice; for the times truth was on our tongues and we swallowed it instead of speaking it; for the times love was in our hearts and we were too embarrassed to express it; for the times we were prey to fears and we didn't trust you with them; for the times a stranger asked us for something and we pretended not to realise what was needed; for the times we haven't loved enough and for the times we have loved with only part of ourselves:

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Hear us as now we pray in your Son's words, saying:

**OUR FATHER**

**Read:** John 11 verses 17 - 37

### **Reflection**

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes maximum, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

There could be a discussion about how society deals with offenders and also how we respond to victims of offenders. Or you could look at how we deal with prisoners who have served their sentence, and what role the Church can play. Where does forgiveness lie? The Gospel passage is a story of loss and restoration. Prison is a moment of loss of all kinds for the families of prisoners.

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

### **Prayer**

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church; for the justice system, for those in prison and for those who work in our prisons and for the families of prisoners; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**LET US GO IN PEACE TO BE THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**

**LET US TAKE STRENGTH IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT  
GOD LOVES US, AND HOPE IN THE POWER OF THE  
RESURRECTED CHRIST.  
MAY WE TAKE COURAGE FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT TODAY AND ALWAYS.  
AMEN.**

## **Week 4 – Christ the King – the end of the Christian Year**

**Leader:** Come, let us bow down and worship God.  
Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!  
He is our God, we are the people he  
cares for, the flock for which he provides.

### **Opening responses**

Praise the Lord, all the earth!  
**PRAISE THE KING OF ALL THE WORLD!**  
Praise the Lord, all you peoples!  
**PRAISE THE KING OF ALL THE NATIONS!**  
Praise the Lord, great and mighty!  
**PRAISE THE KING WHO BUILDS US UP!**  
Praise the Lord, kind and gentle!  
**PRAISE THE LORD WHO MEETS OUR NEEDS!**

**Read:** Psalm 93

**Prayer**

Loving God, we worship you and praise your holy name

**FOR YOU ARE OUR GOD AND OUR KING**

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship you and praise your holy name

**FOR YOU ARE OUR GOD AND OUR KING**

Joyous Spirit we worship you and we praise your holy name

**FOR YOU ARE OUR GOD AND OUR KING**

We kneel before Jesus our King in sorrow and repentance as we bring our prayer of confession, saying:  
In your mercy

**FORGIVE US AND HELP US**

We are sorry that too often we do what we want rather than obeying your will.

In your mercy

**FORGIVE US AND HELP US**

We are sorry for listening to the many voices we hear in the world instead of listening to your voice.

In your mercy

**FORGIVE US AND HELP US**

We are sorry that we think too much about material possessions instead of worshipping you.

In your mercy

**FORGIVE US AND HELP US**

We are sorry for putting self on the throne instead of bowing before you, the King of Kings.

In your mercy

**FORGIVE US AND HELP US.**

And now hear us as we pray in Jesus' words, saying:

## **OUR FATHER**

**Read:** Matthew 25 verses 31 - 46

### **Reflection**

This should take the form of an introduction from the leader of 5 – 7 minutes **maximum**, and designed to stimulate discussion on the subject.

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

This could be a reflection on the end of the Christian year, on the nature of kingship as seen in Jesus, or perhaps on how you feel when you read the Gospel passage from Matthew

### **Prayer**

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

## **CLOSING RESPONSES**

And the Spirit of God shall be with him

**AND UPON HIS PEOPLE.**

**AND THEY SHALL KNOW THAT GOD HAS MADE HIS HOME WITH THEM.**

**AND HE SHALL BE THEIR KING AND THEIR GOD AND THEY SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE:**

**BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE, MADE RADIANT IN HIS  
LIGHT AND AT PEACE IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.  
A PEOPLE MADE WHOLE BY THE RETURN OF THEIR  
KING.  
AMEN.**

This material has been adapted from “Candles and Conifers” and “Winter”, both Wild Goose Publications. In week 3 some of the material comes from resources prepared for Prisoners’ Week Scotland, 2021.