

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

MIDWEEK SERVICES

SEPTEMBER

CREATION AND HARVEST

Week 2 – Lamenting the Damage to Creation

Leader: You discern my thoughts from far away, O God.
You search out my path and my lying down and
are acquainted with all my ways.

Opening Responses

Before the God who loves us with great compassion

WE COME WITH OUR SORROWS

For the damage to this planet

WE ARE WEEPING CREATOR GOD

For the unequal consequences for the poor,

WE ARE WEEPING SHEPHERDING GOD.

For the denials and fears within us,

WE ARE WEEPING HOLY GOD

Loving God, take away the fears that freeze us and give
us the courage to live out your compassionate justice.

AMEN

You might choose to read a hymn from the Creation
section mentioned in Week 1 (136 -156). The second

verse of Hymn 171 is appropriate for this week's theme, and I am sure you can find others.

Read: Psalm 10

Prayer

God of creation and care, you dreamt of a world of beauty and balance but we have not realised your dream.

You separated day from night, establishing a world of patterns and rhythms but we have ignored and interrupted those cycles.

You separated sky, water and land and made a world of habitats for humans and animals but we have disrupted and destroyed those habitats.

You established a world of sufficiency for all but we have plundered and polluted that treasure store and now the poor do not have enough while the rich have too much.

You looked at the world and saw it was good. We look at it and see that it is so much less than you dreamt it to be.

Forgive us we pray.

In silence we confess the ways in which we have been greedy of the world's resources and the ways in which we have not used its resources well

SILENCE

Assured of your forgiveness we ask your help to seek ways to change our lives so that your wonderful world may be preserved for those who come after us.

God of life and light, as we seek a new relationship with your created order, may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you.

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

OUR FATHER

Read: Matthew 13 verses 1 – 9 and 18 – 23

Reflection – please keep to a maximum of 5 – 7 minutes.

This could be an opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we waste the world's resources and the ways in which we destroy God's world. Next week's theme concentrates on our struggle to change.

This part of the service might involve music or poetry; it might involve the use of "props" or something else visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and in particular for tentative steps we are making to reopen our buildings; for those who are alone and who miss the regular rhythm of Church life; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

GOD, TEACH US TO LOOK WITH YOUR SEEING;

TO HEAR WITH YOUR HEARING;

TO COMMIT WITH YOUR WILLING;

TO FEEL WITH YOUR FEELING;

TO CARE WITH YOUR HEART;

TO LIVE IN YOUR LOVE.

AMEN.