

Ardoch and Blackford Parish Churches



Sing a new song to the Lord

Sunday 6th September 2020

Welcome to our worship today when we will be talking about the re opening of our eyes, our hearts, our lives.

Our first hymn is Beautiful Saviour, (All my days) Stuart Townend

All my days I will sing this song of gladness
Give my praise to the fountain of delights
For in my helplessness, you heard my cry
And waves of mercy poured down on my life

(chorus)

Beautiful Saviour, wonderful counsellor
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history

You're the way, the truth and the life
Star of the morning, glorious in holiness
You're the risen one, heaven's champion
And you reign, you reign over all
I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer
I will sing of the lamb that never fails
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleared
Of death defeated and life without end

(chorus)

Beautiful, beautiful Saviour
Wonderful counsellor, beautiful risen one

(chorus)

I long to be where the praise is never ending
Yearn to Dwell where the glory never fades
Where countless worshipers sing one song
And the voices of the nations
Sing worthy, worthy
Worthy beautiful, beautiful one
Jesus you are worthy, beautiful, beautiful one
Jesus you're worthy, beautiful, beautiful one
You are worthy, beautiful, risen one

Mairi leads us in prayer Let us pray

Almighty and all loving God
We would bring you our praise
We would offer you our worship
We would open our hearts

We would tell of all you mean to us
We would proclaim your greatness

Eternal and all powerful God
We hunger to meet with you
To hear your voice
To know your will
To learn more of you
And to offer you a commitment
That does justice to your love

Gracious and all forgiving God
Help us then to acknowledge our faults
To confess our sins
To recognise our many weaknesses
To see all that is wrong in our lives
And to be a people who do justice to your mercy

Great and all transforming God
Enable us to serve you more faithfully
Love you more deeply
Know you more fully
Obey you more completely
And live in a way
That does justice to your renewing power

Everlasting God

You know what we are

And you know what we want to be

Lord hear our prayers

Receive our worship

And so help us become the people you would want
us to be

To the glory of your name

Amen

Let us say together the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy
name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it
is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever. Amen

Eleanor Thomas reads from Psalm 149 v1 and Psalm 150

**The hymn introduced by Eleanor is We the
Kingdom ... free amen**

Amen, amen, amen

Amen, amen, amen

v1 Hope falling down like rain

Love that I can't explain

Peace that stills my soul

Light in the darkest place

Life even in the pain

It feels like coming home

[Chorus]

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

v2 Here, I'm alive again

Gone is the weight of sin

Oh, sweet liberty

Praise God! Who saved my life

I'm bought with the blood of Christ

I have been redeemed

[Chorus]

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

I am free, amen

Free at last, free at last

Thank God Almighty I am free at last

All my chains are in the past

Thank God Almighty I am free at last

I'm free at last, free at last
Thank God Almighty I am free at last
All my chains are in the past
Thank God Almighty I am free at last
Tell the devil I'm free at last, free at last
Thank God Almighty I am free at last
And all my chains are in the past
Thank God Almighty I am free at last, oh
Oh, I'm free
Thank God we're free

[Chorus]

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
I am free, amen

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom
I am free, amen

Mairi's reflection is on Re opening

Over the last few weeks there has been much talk about re opening. As the world gradually unfolds and re opens, society begins to look very different, society and its people have changed. Many things will never go back to how they were before March 2020.

But what of our Church, how do we re open when we never actually closed. The doors may have been secured to the element yes but our church grew in many different ways.

My concern is that if we don't reopen our

relationship with Christ to its greatest potential we will find ourselves more closed off and locked down than ever. So when I talk about reopening I'm talking about reopening as an Easter people.

I'm talking about reopening our eyes

I'm talking about reopening our hearts

I'm talking about reopening our lives.

I'm talking about reopening ourselves to something new,

Something different,

Something unexpected.

Something exciting

I'm talking about reopening to life, and life abundant, not just for ourselves but for everyone

I'm talking about singing a new song to the Lord

I'm talking about praising the Lord in new ways

I'm talking about praying like we have never prayed before

I'm talking about studying and using our bibles

I'm talking about taking our faith to the next level and out into our communities and really making a difference

We need to sing a new song to the Lord

If we turn to our bibles we can see that three Psalms start with precisely these words —

Psalms 96, 98, and 149 — “sing to the Lord a new song.” As does Isaiah 42:10 (“sing to the Lord a new song”) and Psalm 33:3 (“sing to him a new song”). And Psalm 144:9 adds its voice to the chorus, “I will sing a new song to you, O God.”

Are you ready to sing a new song to the Lord

I know that my heart is ready to sing a new song to the Lord , I may not have all the words or quite the right tune yet but that does not matter because I Know I have the spirit leading me.

So I simply invite you to join me on this amazing life changing adventure because “in the Spirit of the Lord there is freedom”

Amen

Our final hymn this morning is To God be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that we may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;

the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Great things he has taught us, great things he has
done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
[Refrain]

Source: Trinity Psalter Hymnal #236

Benediction

Now go - go with a new song to the Lord in your
heart.
In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Notices

Ardoch

Please watch Mairi's five minute chat on the
Ardoch Web Site. She gives us hope that our
Church will open again when the time is right.
Blackford Church has a different layout from
ourselves and we wish them well in their reopening
this Sunday.

The sub committee arranging the opening of our
Church has, after studying the Church of Scotland
and Government guidelines, recommended that we
do not open at this time. The aisle is narrow and
as we only have one entrance in and out of the
Church we cannot meet the criteria of having a one
way system. However, the Kirk Session is actively
planning guidelines for opening when one metre
spacing comes into effect.

The Guild is holding its Virtual Annual Gathering on Saturday 5th September. You can catch up later. Check our web site for further details on how to watch.

Blackford

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