

Ardoch Parish Church

Sunday 11th October 2020

Rev Mairi Perkins welcomes everyone to our Service of Worship. Today's service reflects on an Eco-friendly church



Our first hymn is "Think of a world without any flowers"

Think of a world without any flowers,
think of a world without any trees,
think of a sky without any sunshine,
think of the air without any breeze.
We thank you, Lord, for flowers and trees and
sunshine,
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Think of the world without any animals,
think of a field without any herd,
think of a stream without any fishes,

think of a dawn without any bird.
We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Think of a world without any people,
think of a street with no-one living there,
think of a town without any houses,
no-one to love and nobody to care.
We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Think of a world without any worship,
think of a God without his only Son,
Think of a cross without resurrection,
only a grave and not a victory won.
We thank you, Lord, for showing us our Saviour;
We thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.

Words & Music: Doreen Newport, June Boyce-
Tillman & Graham Westcott © Stainer & Bell Ltd

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

**Maureen James reads from
Isaiah Chapter 25 v 4, 5
Psalm 48 v 1-4**

You are a tower of refuge to the poor, O LORD,
a tower of refuge to the needy in distress.
You are a refuge from the storm
and a shelter from the heat.
For the oppressive acts of ruthless people
are like a storm beating against a wall,
or like the relentless heat of the desert.
But you silence the roar of foreign nations.
As the shade of a cloud cools relentless heat,
so the boastful songs of ruthless people are stilled.

Psalm 48:1-4

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the
LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home, and the
swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young - a place near your
altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

**Maureen introduces the next hymn which is
"Who put the colours in the rainbow"**

Who put the colours in the rainbow?
Who put the salt into the sea?
Who put the cold in the snowflake?
Who made you and me?
Who put the hump upon the camel?

Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey?
Who made hyenas laugh?
Who made whales and snails and quails?
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?
Who made bats and rats and cats?
Who made everything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine?
Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight?
Who made Earth and Mars?
Who put the scent into the roses?
Who taught the honey bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn?
It surely can't be chance!
Who made seas and leaves and trees?
Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow?
God made all of these!

Words & Music J A P Booth (1931-1995) Performed
by Jenny Legg

Mairi's address is about an Eco-friendly church

Let us just re cap on today's reading.

You are a tower of refuge to the poor, O LORD,
a tower of refuge to the needy in distress.
You are a refuge from the storm
and a shelter from the heat.
For the oppressive acts of ruthless people
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But you silence the roar of foreign nations.
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There are numerous passages in the Bible where God is described as our shelter. In Isaiah 25, God is compared to a tower, a safe place for refugees, a shelter from the storm and a cloud that brings shade.

Different writers in the Bible saw different needs for shelter. David spent time on the run, and God as a hiding place was a powerful metaphor for him. Isaiah lived at a time when the nation of Israel was threatened by a foreign power. The prophet's words would have resonated with those displaced by an invading army. The opposite may be true in Scotland, but as a desert people, there was comfort in the prospect of cloud – finally, some respite from the baking heat of the sun.

We would all have our own idea of what safety might be, and the wildlife around us will have a different perspective too. Small garden birds find safety in the tangled branches of shrubbery, something they can dart into when the shadow of a larger bird passes. For those birds of prey that they fear, shelter might mean a nook in a cliff face or a high branch of a tree. Others find shelter lower down. The deer feed in the open and return to the forest at night. Hedgehogs are at home in a pile of leaves. Puffins burrow themselves in an underground nest.

As the autumn brings the colder weather, now is a good time to look at your garden and your church grounds, and think about making them a place of shelter for wildlife. What birds and animals could take refuge here? What could you add or enhance in

order to create more safe places? We are invited to find peace and rest in the presence of God. How can we share and pass on that sense of welcome and protection to the wildlife around us?

Do you remember the birds in the temple?

In Psalm 48, the Psalmist expresses his longing for God's presence. It's like a hunger or thirst, a physical yearning for the peace of the temple and the refreshment of being with God.

As he thinks about the temple, he observes the wildlife that have found a place there. Sparrows visit the temple, perhaps picking up the scraps from the market or leftovers from the grain offerings. Swallows are nesting in the temple, raising their young on the high walls and in the eaves. How blessed it would be, he muses, to live like those birds, always in the presence of God. Their whole lives would be praise.

Today we have the Holy Spirit. The presence of God is no longer uniquely found in the temple, but we may still experience a hunger for connection with God, or for the fellowship of God's people.

And today we have a variety of creatures that live in and around the church. Each of them live out their animal lives to the glory of their creator, and they are worshippers at this church in their own ways.

Let's look out for them, just as the Psalmist watched the birds in the temple. Let's care for them and make room for them, taking pride in their coming and going.

We can do simple but very practical things to create our eco church community for the wildlife that share this home with us and this was going to be the exciting bit when I had hoped anyone who

wanted, young and old alike could make a bird box , an insect homes or a hedgehog house to put up in the church grounds, so that we can invite new life in and so that more of God's creatures can find shelter here at God's house.

So my challenge to you this week is to make one of these in your own unique way and whatever colour you want , bring it down to the church and leave it on the bench and we will put them up around the church grounds, lets create a place to come and be still with Lord, a place where we can be one with nature, a place where all feel welcome. A place that reflects the glory of God.

Amen

Prayer

God our refuge and strength,

You are our place of safety, our rock and our high tower.

Thank you for your protection and care.

Your house has many rooms, and your door is open to all.

Thank you for your loving welcome.

When people have been turned away, and have nowhere to go.

Inspire us to be a people of welcome.

When people are displaced, and flee for safety,

Help us to show your love and compassion.

Your eye is on the sparrow. You see each one of your creatures.

Open our eyes to your creation.

When animals lose their habitats, and seek shelter.

Help us to make space for the wildlife around us.

In the name of your son Jesus, who made his home among us.

Amen

Our closing hymn is “Makaton UK Blessing”

Initiated by Becky George

Music “The blessing by Coventry Church Collective

Editing Emily & Ben Williams

Promotion Rachel Donne—Davis

Makaton users from across the UK have come together to sign the Makaton UK Blessing. Watch faces fill with joy while communicating and worshipping together.

Here's a break down of the signs used from Becky's initial video, please note everyone will have their own signing style. The Lord bless you - Lord, To Bless And keep you - Safe Make His face shine upon you - Glory (from God) And be gracious to you - Grace (coming from God) The Lord turn His, Face toward you - Near And give you peace - To Give (from God), Peace Amen, - Amen We pray a blessing - To Pray, To Bless Man a reign down from heaven - Heaven This isn't second guessing - No, Doubt We know we are protected - To Know, To Love May the peace that surpasses all understanding - Peace, To Understand Be our message - To know Grace and favour is in your nature in your essence - Grace, True Love, God May His favour be upon you - True Love, To Give And a thousand generations - Many, People Your family and your children - Family, Children And their children, and their children - Their, Children, Their Children May His presence go before you - Near, To Follow And behind you, and beside you - Past, Near body All around you, and within you - All, Love He is with you, He is with you - God, With (come towards you), God, With (come towards you) In the morning, in the evening - morning, evening In your coming, and your going - To Come, To Go In your weeping, and rejoicing - Sad, Happy He is for you, He is for you - God, With (come towards you), God, With (come towards you)

Benediction

Now go, with the love of God's creation in your hearts. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Resources written by Jeremy Williams and Paul Williams at Earthbound Ventures, in consultation with A Rocha UK and RSPB Scotland. Distributed by Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Intimations

There will be a virtual Kirk Session Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 28th October at 7pm.

The Harvest Thanksgiving collection for Edith's Hope raised the sum of £340. This will be a great help to the orphans and child headed families in Uganda as they struggle to cope with uncertainties of the pandemic.

Due to the current situation some members have requested if it is possible to transfer their offerings directly to the churches bank account. If you wish to do this *THE SORT CODE IS 80:91:28 and the ACCOUNT NUMBER IS 00124183.*

A personal appeal from Ann Spiers

The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal is no longer being run out of Crieff. This gave me pause for thought.

Blythswood boxes went abroad to many countries, But what about our country? In view of Covid 19, people are losing jobs and their homes....why don't we give locally, as well.

So I contacted the Salvation Army in Stirling. I am a huge fan of the SA and have donated for many years. They will be delighted to cooperate by receiving gifts which they will distribute to needy families, the homeless, elderly in need, etc.

My plan is, in view of the Church being mainly closed, to collect at my house and when I have a fair amount I will deliver to Stirling. Gifts should be of warm socks, gloves, scarves etc. just like we put in the boxes...for all ages. Toiletries, toys for

children, household items, etc. Please mark on your parcel the age group.

This not a scheme for getting rid of your junk .. it is Christmas and a time for Christian giving.

Please join me as you did with the Shoeboxes.

Thank you

Ardoch Parish Church Scottish Charity Number SC000139

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