

# QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

JULY 20021

During July we will look at 5 of the letters of the New Testament.

In each of the weeks I have chosen a passage from that week's letter but please don't feel restricted to that. Something else in the letter might strike you. In a perfect world we will all read the whole of each letter before we meet!

### Week 1 – Galatians - The Fruits of the Spirit

Leader:

"I am the Lord," says the Lord God. "I shall give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you."

"You shall be my people and I shall be your God."

*(Ezekiel Chapter 36 from verses 23, 26, 28)*

### OPENING RESPONSES

Lord God, source of life,

WE REJOICE THAT THROUGH THE POWER OF YOUR SPIRIT WE ARE ALIVE; BREATHING, THINKING, FEELING CREATURES, MADE IN YOUR LIKENESS AND FOR YOUR GLORY.

Lord God, source of life,

WE REJOICE THAT HOW WE LIVE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHERS COMES FROM THE FRUITS OF YOUR SPIRIT. WE THANK YOU AND PRAISE YOU AND GLORIFY YOU.

Hymn or song: You might like to read Hymn 621: "Spirit of Jesus, if I love my neighbour" or 359: "He came down that we may have love."

Read Psalm 16

Prayer

God of freedom, your ways are wonderful and we marvel at all the wonders of creation. So often we are astonished at the variety of colours and textures and sounds of your world. We rejoice in the liveliness of creation.

God of freedom, nothing can restrict you or hold you in:  
WE WORSHIP YOU AND WELCOME THE FREEDOM YOU BRING

God of freedom, in Jesus you have given us new life, new direction; when we might not have been listening to your still small voice you sent your Son to show us how we should live and how we should love.

God of freedom, nothing can restrict you or hold you in:  
WE WORSHIP YOU AND WELCOME THE FREEDOM YOU BRING

God of freedom, you sent the Holy Spirit to inspire and direct us. If we let the Spirit in we find our lives filled with the gifts of the Spirit. Love, joy and peace are blessings; patience, kindness and generosity transform

our relationships and make enemies friends;  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control help us to live  
the life you will for us.

God of freedom, nothing can restrict you or hold you in:  
WE WORSHIP YOU AND WELCOME THE FREEDOM YOU  
BRING

We confess that we have not shown love to others but  
have been more concerned with our own wants and  
comfort.

Lord, give us a new heart:  
PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN US.

We confess that often we have lost a sense of joy and  
peace and become overwhelmed by anxiety and fear.

Lord, give us a new heart:  
PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN US.

We confess we have not been patient or kind but  
instead have criticised what we see as failings in others.

Lord, give us a new heart:  
PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN US.

We confess we have despaired of being good and have  
lacked faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, putting  
our own feelings before those of others.

Lord, give us a new heart:  
PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN US.

Loving God, we do not have the power to transform  
ourselves, but you have offered us forgiveness and a  
new life. Fill us with your Spirit that we may truly  
become your people.

And now hear us as we pray further in the words Jesus  
taught his disciples, saying:

## OUR FATHER

Read: Galatians Chapter 5 verses 16 - 26  
John 14 verses 15 – 20 and 25 - 26

### Reflection

Reflect for 5 – 7 minutes. Please keep within that time frame!

The passage on the gifts of the Spirit leaves much scope for a reflection. You could refer to some or all of them or you could choose just one.

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

You might want to use this meditation as a basis for a reflection. I found it in an old book called "Turn but a Stone" by Edmund Banyard:

Nine gifts, yet one harvest in a rich diversity.

LOVE is to care and care and go on caring.

JOY is a bubbling spring rising in the heart and replenished by each counted blessing.

PEACE is the refuge of tranquillity which, when under pressure, we may yet find within ourselves.

PATIENCE is the constancy which steadily endures however grim the way.

KINDNESS bestows without creating debtors.

GOODNESS does right by those most needing aid.

FAITHFULNESS is a rock of utter dependability.

GENTLENESS is the strength which is never asserted out of place.

Lastly comes SELF-CONTROL. It is the victory over passion by which we become consistent through and through.

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 how we move forward with worship in our churches; for those who are sick at this time; for all health workers and carers; for those whose income is uncertain; for our country as we move forward from the coronavirus crisis; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING RESPONSES

God goes with us to free us from all that binds us;  
God goes with us to free us to serve our neighbours;  
God goes with us to free us to live in his peace:  
WE GO WITH GOD!