**Dalmeny and Queensferry Parish Churches**

**Thursday morning services on Zoom**

**27th April – 25th May 2023 at 9.30am**

**Theme**

*Thy Kingdom Come: The character of God – “Living the Kingdom” in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Over these five Thursdays, our services will follow themes from *Thy Kingdom Come* – a global ecumenical movement that invites Christians around the world to pray together, in the run-up to Pentecost, for more people to come to know Jesus. For more information see [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

*Pray for 5* A big part of *Thy Kingdom Come* is for every person to choose five people who do not yet know Christ and pray for them daily, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal himself to them.

*Prayer for others* Each week, we focus on a different aspect of life in our community and the wider world.

*Living the Kingdom* Each week, we’re encouraged to take action to live God’s kingdom “on earth, as it is in heaven”.

**Week 1 – 27th April**

Bible passages: Acts 2:14a, 36-39

Psalm 78:1-7

Prayers for others theme: Children and young people

*Living the Kingdom* action for the week: Choose the five people you would like to pray for throughout this season and beyond.

As we pray for the likeness of Christ to be formed in us, why not look for opportunities to follow St Barnabas’ example to be “Sons and daughters of encouragement” in your engagement with other people?

**Week 2 – 4th May**

Bible passages: John 10:1-10

Luke 11:1-4 and 13

Psalm 23 (Tokio Megashie – see below)

Prayers for others theme: Our local community

*Living the Kingdom* action for the week: Why not, this very week, ask in faith for the 'how much more' of the Holy Spirit so you are able to witness to the life-changing work of God? And then offer to pray for a friend or a neighbour, a colleague in the office or the workplace, someone at school or at college. Remember that our responsibility is to pray for people out of our love for and obedience to Jesus, who always wants us to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit!

*Modern version of Psalm 23:*

 THE LORD is my Pace setter - I shall not rush.

 He makes me stop for quiet intervals,

 He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity,

 He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind,

 And his guidance is Peace.

 Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,

 I will not fret,

 For his Presence is here,

 His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance.

 He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity,

 By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity,

 My cup of joyous energy overflows.

 Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,

 For I shall walk in the pace of my LORD

 And dwell in his house forever.

*by a Japanese writer – Tokio Megashie – 22nd January 2012*

**Week 3 – 11th May**

Bible passages: John 14:15-21

Psalm 31:1-5 and 14-16

Prayers for others theme: Praying for those living in poverty

*Living the Kingdom* action for the week: In what acts of sharing and serving might God be calling you to demonstrate His abundant love and practical care during *TKC*?

In what small way could we show love and care for God’s creation, both people and planet, today?

How can your hands bring God’s blessing to another person today?

**Week 4 – 18th May – Ascension Day and launch of *TKC 2023***

Bible passages: Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or 93

Luke 24:44-53

Prayers for others theme: The workplace

*Living the Kingdom* action for the week: Each day, pay attention to people who provide services for us, however routine or ordinary, and thank them by name.

**Week 5 – 25th May – Pentecost week**

Bible passages: Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

John 7:37-39

Prayers for others theme: The persecuted church

*Living the Kingdom* action for the week: Pray especially today for those living in countries where the church is at risk of persecution. Pray that they will sense God’s loving presence strengthening them.

**Liturgy for *TKC* series April/May 2023**

**Opening responses**

**Leader** Seek first the Kingdom of God

**All** We seek your Kingdom, O God

**Leader** Seek the power of the Holy Spirit

**All** We seek the power of the Holy Spirit

**Leader** We read the word of God and hear him speaking to us

**All** We seek to hear you speaking to us from your word

**Leader** Explore the depths of Christ’s love for you

**All** We seek your love, O Christ

**Leader** Share the love of God with those you meet today

**All** Help us to share your love with others

**Leader** Be open to the voice of God through his Holy Spirit

**All** Lord. I am listening for your message today

**Leader** Hear the voice of God as you walk with Him today.

**Lord’s Prayer** **– a modern version**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.

Now and for ever.

Amen.

**Closing responses – Contemporary Beatitudes from *Celtic Treasures* by Liz Babbs**

(The Celtic model for Christian community was God as a welcoming, loving family of three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

**Leader** To those who are lost

And ache for truth

**All** **God brings his comfort.**

**Leader** To those who cry out for justice

But have no proof

**All** **God brings his comfort.**

**Leader** To those who struggle to

Make ends meet

**All** **God brings his comfort.**

**Leader** To those who don’t have

Enough to eat

**All** **God brings his comfort.**

**Leader** To those who are marginalised

And have no self worth,

**All** **God brings his comfort.**

**All Amen**