North Leith Parish Church
Sunday 14 March 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Click the link below to listen

Welcome, Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

Call to Worship
(Based on Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
In our trouble the Lord saves us from distress;
He gathers us in;
He sends out his word and heals us,
He delivers us from destruction.
O give thanks to the Lord, for his wonderful works;
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Let us worship the Lord.

Prayer of Approach
Lord, You are our Creator and Guide,
You are present in difficult places.
You are the master map maker and

no territory is uncharted for You,
You are the wise compass bearer
and You steadfastly find good paths for Your people.
You walk before us and with us,
You face us with reality and truth,
You give us the courage to go forward and
You are faithful to Your promise to guide us home.

Lord, You are our loving Parent, both Father and Mother too and
we belong to Your family,
You sit with us now in patience,
You listen to us and
invite us to open our lives to You,
Help us to hear Your voice today.

Lord, we are sorry for our lack of trust in You
and our lack of obedience to You too.
You provide us with all we need for life and
You catch us in our complaining,
You know all we do and our selfishness hurts You and others too.
We are sorry Lord
Forgive us

Change our view of life
Lift our eyes to a vision of life with You for ever too.

In gratitude for Your love and care for us we pray the words which Jesus taught us to say together:-

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 and ever.
Amen.

Click the link below to listen

Hymn 485 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Verses 1, 5 and 6

Scripture Readings Numbers 21:4-9 and John 3:14- 21

Reader Mark Cooper

Click the link below to listen

Scripture Readings and Reflection

Snakes and Crosses

Katherine Taylor

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord, thank You for Your goodness. You have brought Your people through many troubles through the centuries. Thank you for the knowledge and patience of the scientists who have created vaccines and for the skill of those who make and deliver them. Thank You for all those who heal us and make us whole through medicine and surgery, listening and wise words, compassion and laughter and in love and faith.

Lord, You gather Your people together as a many faced family from all corners of the earth. Only You can hold our difference together. Turn our eyes to You, lift our spirits and give us the strength to persist in steps towards change grounded in love and unity. We pray for all families today, conventional and unconventional and for those where the reality is that relationships are strained or broken. May they know Your healing presence is always with them.

Lord, You come to us when we are stuck fast in the trouble of war, pollution, hunger, oppressive government, lack of work, poverty and over consumption. Help us to look beyond ourselves and our human limitation, to trust in You and to choose to live in Your ways now on earth. We pray for all leaders who make decisions for the common good. May they have wisdom and courage and listening ears.

Lord, our words can hurt and harm others. In our times of too many damaging words You send Your word out to us. Help us to recognise which words are true and which words to trust. Help us to know when to speak and when to stay silent so that our words are words of blessing too.

Lord, we pray for ourselves and for those we are concerned about, those who are grieving and those who are ill, those who are anxious and those who are hopeless and those with too much or too little work.

In silence, we lift our own prayers up to You.

Lord in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer,

Amen

Click the link below to listen

Hymn 559 There is a Redeemer

Blessing

May the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and with all those we love, now and for evermore.

Amen

Voluntary

Click the link below to listen

God so loved the world John Stainer

Intimations

Church Opening

All being well, the church building will open for worship again from Palm Sunday, 28th March at 11am.

The North Leith Holy Week Service is at 7pm on Tuesday 30th March.

You are very welcome.

North Leith Easter Magazine

Contributions to the magazine are due to the church office by 16th March. Perhaps you would like to share what you are looking forward to this year? Or has there been a special walk or place which has lifted your spirits during the past few months?

Easter Flowers

We are celebrating Easter by brightening up the North Leith church railings with as many knitted or crocheted flowers as we can. We may even have enough to give away! All kinds of flowers and leaves are welcome and can be dropped off at the church office between 10 and 12 on Tuesday 23rd or Friday 26th March or posted through the letterbox. If you would like help with a pattern and wool please contact the church office**.**

Thank you to Mark Cooper for reading and our organist Iain Mackinnon for his choice of voluntary.

Pictures

Brazen Serpent Sculpture and Holy Bible