

# ***North Leith Parish Church***

***Sunday 17 March 2024***

***A service of Consolation at a time of Loss***



***Interim Moderator: Karen McKay***

***Minister: Rev. John Tait***

***Organist: Iain Mackinnon***

**Opening Voluntary** Ave Verum. Wolfgang A Mozart (1756-1791)

**Recorded music**

**Reading** *Rev. John Tait*

**Deep peace of the running wave to you  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you**

**Call to Worship** *Karen McKay and Rev. John Tait*

Praise The Lord my soul  
**All my being praise his holy name**  
He forgives all our sins  
**And heals all our diseases**  
Give thanks to the Lord because he is good  
**His love is eternal**  
He satisfies those who are thirsty  
**and fills the hungry with good things**  
Let us worship God

**Hymn 547** What a Friend we have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations,  
is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?

Jesus is our only refuge:  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

### **Prayer of Approach and Confession** *Karen McKay*

#### **Lords 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.*

#### **Scripture Readings**

##### **Old Testament Psalm 23:1-6** *Rev. John Tait*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want;<sup>2</sup> he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; <sup>3</sup>he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **Old Testament Isaiah 40:1-8** *Karen McKay*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.<sup>3</sup> A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass.<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

### **Hymn 557** O Love that wilt not let me go

1. O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee:  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.
2. O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee:  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee:  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee:  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red  
life that shall endless be.

**Introduction to the Service** *Rev. John Tait*

**Poem “Memories of a Member”** *by Norma Anne Macarthur*

Behold my God a Church is closing  
Whilst its memories are yet bestowing  
Gifts of Grace and Kindly Spirit  
The likes of goodness to inherit

The sanctuary is where we gather  
To hear and seek our Sunday Father  
And lift our hearts with praises ring  
to Jesus and His Kingdom sing

The stained glass windows aye inspire us  
To serve the Lord and sing in chorus  
To with the Little Children suffer  
The passing years of now or never ....

I met some lovely friends when here  
Enjoyed some happy meetings dear  
Although our Church is sadly closing  
This member's heart is ever glowing

And so we carry all this onward  
To help and heal the right way forward  
Our memories will well remain  
With fragrance in the grand refrain ....

***With prayers for Peace and Posterity***

***Written on Wednesday 21 February 2024***

**Sharing of memories**

**Michelle Doig shares her memory**

**All sing** (*Where there is charity and love, God is there. Hymn 801*)

Ubi caritas et amor

Ubi caritas

Deus ibi est

## **Tim Bell shares his memory**

### **All sing**

Ubi caritas et amor

Ubi caritas

Deus ibi est

**Organ Reflection** O rest in the Lord. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**Hymn 166** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**Reflection** *Rev. John Tait*

**Hymn 286** Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of his word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!  
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!

**Hanging of Symbols on the Prayer Tree** *Karen McKay*

*During this there will be intermittent singing of the following Taize song (hymn 772)*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

**Prayer of Dedication** *Rev. John Tait*

**Prayer of Intercession** *Rev. John Tait*

**Hymn 167** Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till my want is o'er.

2. Open now the crystal fountain  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through:  
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside!  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side!  
Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever give to thee.

**Benediction** *Rev. John Tait*

**Choral Amen**

**Closing Voluntary** Prelude in C Major. JS Bach (1685-1750)

## **INTIMATIONS**

### **Sunday Services**

Welcome, all, to our service this morning. The service will be followed by lunch in the hall. Whether you were able to fill in a slip with your food selection last week or not, please join us.

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, will be our leave-taking special service followed by a buffet lunch in the hall.

