



Order of Service

19th of June 2022

10.00 am

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from John Howie and the Choir

.Faith



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

Welcome & Announcements

Good morning

Welcome to our service of worship.

I need some help please with putting up the gazebos next week for the picnic.

Please remember to bring your own chairs or a blanket with you.

The service will start at 11 am.

Tomorrow at 1 pm we will have the funeral service for Sir William Sutherland.

Margaret Melliush service will take place next Monday at 3 pm at Mortonhall crematorium.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped at Ulla Dormers funeral. The family appreciated all that we did for them.

Remember the strawberry tea on Wednesday 29th of June 2022.

Worshipping God Together

Minister: Let us all come together to seek God.
 So come as you are with your joys and sorrows.

ALL: : Come with your thanks and doubts.

Come with your fears and hopes.

Minister: Come together to seek and worship God.

Beloved I greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

CH4 476 Mine eyes have seen the coming of the Lord

Opening prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Holy God,
holy and righteous God,
we thank you for prophets, who see your reality.
We thank you for the insight of teachers, who guide us in your ways.
Help us to understand your will for the world,
and forgive us when we fail to see it.

Holy God,
holy and merciful God,
we thank you for your saving hand.
Help us to trust you more,
to commit ourselves to following the example of Jesus Christ,
and, leaving the outcome of our actions to you,
help us to let go – to trust in your love
and to be the people you want us to be.

Holy God,
holy and tender God,
let us rest in your love.
Give us the gift of knowing we are loved,
knowing it not just in our minds, but in the whole of our being,
for everything we do comes from that security,
so that we leave our selves behind
and become part of your good will for the world.

Holy God, righteous, merciful and tender,
fill us with these things.
Strengthen us to do the right thing.
Make us more eager to do right than to be right.
Soften our hard hearts.
Inspire us to return curses with blessings.
Be in our eyes when we look around,
so that we see you in all things and all people.
For you are the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and we long to live in constant knowledge of your presence.
We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your 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 You are the
kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Reading: Hebrews 11 read by Margaret Forsyth

Faith in action

Now faith is **confidence in** what we hope for and **assurance about what we do** not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. ³By **faith we** understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that **what is seen** was not made out of what was visible. ⁴By **faith Abel** brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. ⁵By **faith Enoch** was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: 'He could not be found, because God had taken him away.'^[a] For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. ⁶And **without faith it is impossible to please God,** because anyone who comes to **him must believe that he exists** and that he rewards **those who earnestly seek him.** ⁷By **faith Noah,** when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to

save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. ⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she ^[b] considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Choir sings CH4 76 “How can I ever thank the Lord”.

Reflection

I often meet people who have a BIG BIG issue with faith in general – not even to mention their OWN faith in the TRIUNE GOD – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When I challenge them, they usually respond in different ways.

ONE they say – I am too much of a doubter...

Or they say – I am too critical – I cannot believe that there is a GOD who would do this and that...

OR some even say they struggle with FAITH because nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God – being an agnostic...

You also get the protest atheists who believe that faith in GOD is impossible in the light of all the atrocities that happens...

This seems to be all confusing but when you boil it all down, I cannot help but to wonder about their expectations....

Faith is not something that comes knocking on your door one day, whom you invite for coffee and then when they/it leave, never see them/it again.

Faith is not a random feeling of holiness or reverence.

FAITH is not a human accomplishment which you earn by doing a lot of HOLY things.

FAITH is not the passport to all happiness, bliss

and wholeness.

FAITH is the deep rooted assurance – worked by GOD’S HOLY Spirit of the things we do not see of all the things that GOD is doing all around us.

It is the confidence to know that we are saved by GOD through HIS ONLY SON Jesus Christ.

FAITH is a verb. FAITH is action. The writer James said that FAITH without works is dead. Actually, he was saying they cannot exist which is also the view of our reading.

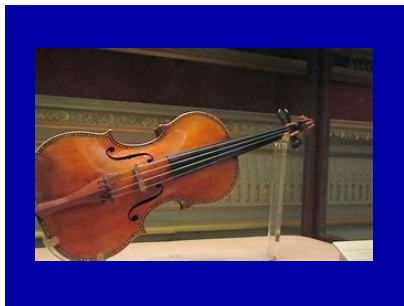
We cannot be living in GOD’s presence, pleasing HIM - if we do not believe He exists.

Our writer gives us many examples of faith in action by Noah, Sarah, Abraham, Enoch and Abel...

All of them is a living proof of their obedience to God of the sacrifices they made but also their joy in serving GOD in and through their deep rooted believe that HE exists in their lives.

FAITH is like trees planted. They flourish in all sorts of ways.

Now lets have a quiz... I am going to show you two slides of two trees – you need to pick one tree that is used to make violins....



Slide 1 and slide 2



Let us vote, who says the tree in first/second slide?

Who says the 2nd one?

Well the ones who voted for the first one were right?

The first slide is a picture of a Stradivarius tree. It grows in the Alps. Usually squeezed in between the other trees, struggling to find light, water and space – tall and thin with no branches.

Branches mean knots in the wood. And knots in the wood spoil a violin's resonance.

I have been at a Conference for my own professional development and heard a poem of this tree which I would like to read. It was written by an Episcopal minister Liz Crumlish:

The trees at the edge of the forest
That have not had to struggle for water and air
whose
branches are plentiful, whose leaves are many
are too full of knots to make beautiful
instruments.

Only
those that have struggled
Forced
to endure darkness
Forced
to grow thin and tall
Forced
to eschew branches to occupy less space
Forced
to seek the light
Those
are the trees
Chosen to be fashioned into beautiful
instruments
For beauty insists that we go beyond what we
see that we persistently look
For that which is considered impossible
Beauty
insists that we look deep within and call forth
an ancient wisdom that refuses to settle for
ordinary
And
beautiful music requires discipline
many hours of patiently rehearsing
the notes on the page laying each one down

allowing
even the discords to find their place
Until
From the grit of persistence
transformation
occurs and
out of brokenness emerges
beauty
forged
in love
sustained
by care.
A
wholehearted offering
to
beautify the world.

I think this poem says it all – even those trees that are dry – those people who struggles with faith – those who finds it hard to BELIEVE in GOD – those trees who do not SEE the LIGHT of Christ's love, those who are thirsty for the LIVING water, even they are beautiful and can be made into the most beautiful instrument.

And even if you have knobs and wabbles on your TREE and are not fit to make musical instruments – you also have a purpose. Your wood can become the most beautiful furniture in God's hands.

SO all of us, even when we play disharmonious cords – together we make a symphony of God's LOVE in the world.

To return the people's reactions about God and Faith – I always say just wait for God to transform your life. Just pray and ask HIM to enter your life...

Whether you have a lot of faith or none – God loves you just as you are! Amen

CH4 517

Fight the good fight with all your might

Prayer of thanksgiving by Lesley Burt

CH4 737

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?

Blessing Receive the blessing of God and go in peace:

Lord - Help us to be committed to our faith,

to give ourselves completely in our discipleship,
and to support each other faithfully
in our task of bringing your good news to all the world
And the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy
Spirit will be with you, now and forever more.
Congregation sing Amen, Amen, Amen



BALERNO PARISH CHURCH

Intimations

Sunday, 19 June 2022

WORSHIP SERVICES

26 June 2022 @ 11 am Summer family service with picnic.

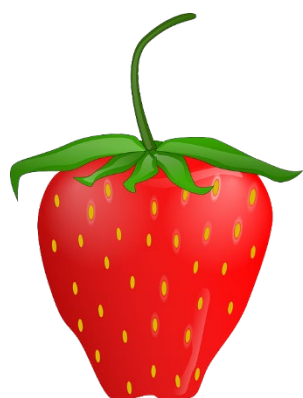
3 July 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

10 July 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

17 July 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

24 July 2022 @ 10 am Worship service

31 July 2022 @ 10 am Worship service



The Guild Strawberry Tea which is to be held on Wednesday evening the 29th of June at 7pm in the St Joseph's Centre. This is a fundraiser for one of the National Guild Projects 'Home for Good' a UK Christian fostering agency. Guild members in Church on Sunday will have tickets to give out, a suggested donation of £5 is being asked for.

Funeral details:

Sir William Sutherland on Monday 20 June 2022 @ 13:00 @ Balerno Church.

Margaret Melliush 27 June 2022 @ 15:00 Mortenhall in Main chapel.

BALERNO BANK DETAILS:

Sort code 83 - 19 - 15
Account 00119731
Balerno Church of Scotland