

**Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland**  
**Order of Service, 25th February 2024**  
**Ruminating on Ruth - *The Shadow of His Wings***



**Gathering music**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.

**Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.**

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

**People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

They feast in the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.

**For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.**

From Psalm 36

**Hymn 124** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

## **Opening Prayer, Collect and the Lord's Prayer**

Almighty God, grant us the Spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we who can do nothing good without you, may live according to your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who live and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Our Father in heaven.  
Hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us in the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you  
**and also with you**

**Hymn 43** O God, you are my God alone

### **Scripture Reading Ruth 2: Verses 1-13**

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. <sup>2</sup> And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favour.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' <sup>3</sup> So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, 'The LORD be with you.' They answered, 'The LORD bless you.' <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, 'To whom does this young woman belong?' <sup>6</sup> The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, 'She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.' <sup>7</sup> She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers." So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'

<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. <sup>9</sup> Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' <sup>10</sup> Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favour in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?' <sup>11</sup> But Boaz answered her, 'All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under

whose wings you have come for refuge!’ <sup>13</sup> Then she said, ‘May I continue to find favour in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.’

**Anthem Safe in the shadow of the Lord** (based on Psalm 91)

**Ruth 2: Verses 14-23**

<sup>14</sup> At mealtime Boaz said to her, ‘Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.’ So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. <sup>15</sup> When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, ‘Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. <sup>16</sup> You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.’

<sup>17</sup> So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup> She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. <sup>19</sup> Her mother-in-law said to her, ‘Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.’ So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, ‘The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.’ <sup>20</sup> Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ‘Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!’ Naomi also said to her, ‘The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.’ <sup>21</sup> Then Ruth the Moabite said, ‘He even said to me, “Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.”’ <sup>22</sup> Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, ‘It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.’ <sup>23</sup> So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

**Hymn 555** Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

**Sermon** *The Shadow of His Wings*

**Hymn 694** Brother, sister, let me serve you

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 562** Through the love of God, our Saviour

**Sending and blessing**

**Sending music**

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Scripture Reader: Laura Shepherd

Prayers of the People: Don and Heather Ferguson

Organist/pianist: David Stewart

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.

All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated

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