

Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland
Order of Service, 3rd March 2024
Ruminating on Ruth - *Celebrating Kindness*



Gathering music

Welcome

Call to Worship

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘therefore I will hope in him.’

**The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.**

It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Lamentations 3: 22-26

Hymn 147 (omit vv. 2 & 3) All creatures of our God and King

Opening Prayer, Collect and Lord’s Prayer

Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, of ourselves we have no power to help ourselves. Keep us outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In whose name we pray together in the words he himself taught us:

**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 231 For the fruits of all creation

Scripture Readings

Ruth 3: 1-18

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ² Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. ³ Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.' ⁵ She said to her, 'All that you tell me I will do.'

⁶ So she went down to the threshing-floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. ⁷ When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came quietly and uncovered his feet, and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! ⁹ He said, 'Who are you?' And she answered, 'I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin.' ¹⁰ He said, 'May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not be afraid; I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. ¹³ Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do so. If he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the LORD lives, I will act as next-of-kin-for you. Lie down until the morning.'

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before one person could recognize another; for he said, 'It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing-

floor.’ ¹⁵ Then he said, ‘Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out.’ So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley, and put it on her back; then he went into the city. ¹⁶ She came to her mother-in-law, who said, ‘How did things go with you, my daughter?’ Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, ‘He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, “Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.”’ ¹⁸ She replied, ‘Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today.’

Anthem Albert’s hymn *Arranged by Andrew Carvel*

1 Peter 1: 3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Hymn 573 Jesus, Saviour, Lord, now to you I fly

Sermon Celebrating kindness

Hymn 181 For the beauty of the earth

Prayers of the People

Hymn 167 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Sending and blessing

Sending music

Worship Leader: Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison

Scripture Reader: Amy Marcham

Prayers of the People: Ruth Forrester and Lorna Cannock

Organist/pianist: John Riley

Sources:

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

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