

Edinburgh: The New Town Church of Scotland

11 August 2024

Order of Service

“Preparing the earth for the fairness that God will create”

Call to Worship Isaiah 45:8 (CEV) & 18-19 (REB)

(Leader:) The LORD said

“Tell the heavens to send down justice like showers of rain.

**(All:) Prepare the earth for my saving power to sprout
and produce justice that I, the LORD, create”...**

(Leader:) Thus says the LORD, ... who is God, who made the earth and fashioned it ...

(All:) who created it not as a formless waste but as a place to be lived in:

(Leader:) “I am the LORD, and there is none other. I did not speak in secret, ...

(All:) I the LORD speak what is right, I declare what is just.”

CH3 123 Hushed was the evening hymn
verses 1, 3, 4, 5 only

Tune: Samuel

Prayer finishing with Lord’s prayer

Intro to first reading

Reading Proverbs 10:1-23 (NRSVA)

The proverbs of Solomon.

- 1 A wise child makes a glad father,
but a foolish child is a mother’s grief.
- 2 Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit,
but righteousness delivers from death.
- 3 The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry,
but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
- 4 A slack hand causes poverty,
but the hand of the diligent makes rich.
- 5 A child who gathers in summer is prudent,
but a child who sleeps in harvest brings shame.
- 6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- 7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing,
but the name of the wicked will rot.
- 8 The wise of heart will heed commandments,
but a babbling fool will come to ruin.
- 9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely,
but whoever follows perverse ways will be found out.
- 10 Whoever winks the eye causes trouble,
but the one who rebukes boldly makes peace.
- 11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

- 12 Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all offences.
- 13 On the lips of one who has understanding wisdom is found,
but a rod is for the back of one who lacks sense.
- 14 The wise lay up knowledge,
but the babbling of a fool brings ruin near.
- 15 The wealth of the rich is their fortress;
the poverty of the poor is their ruin.
- 16 The wage of the righteous leads to life,
the gain of the wicked to sin.
- 17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life,
but one who rejects a rebuke goes astray.
- 18 Lying lips conceal hatred,
and whoever utters slander is a fool.
- 19 When words are many, transgression is not lacking,
but the prudent are restrained in speech.
- 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver;
the mind of the wicked is of little worth.
- 21 The lips of the righteous feed many,
but fools die for lack of sense.
- 22 The blessing of the Lord makes rich,
and he adds no sorrow with it.
- 23 Doing wrong is like sport to a fool,
but wise conduct is pleasure to a person of understanding.

Responses to the first reading

CH4 357 'This is my will, my new command' *Tune: Rockingham (Communion)*
(CH4 392)

Reading Philippians 2:12-30 (NRSVA)

12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmuring and arguing, **15** so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. **16** It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you— **18** and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. **20** I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. **21** All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. **22** But Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. **23** I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me; **24** and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

25 Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow-soldier, your messenger and minister to my need; **26** for he has been longing for all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. **27** He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. **28** I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. **29** Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honour such people, **30** because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

“... the one who rebukes boldly makes peace” Proverbs 10:10 (NRSVA)
Let us commit to doing what is necessary to achieve peace in this world ...
... as we offer one another a sign of peace.

Dedication of offering

CH4 520 Ye who the name of Jesus bear *Tune: St. Anne*

Sermon “Preparing the earth for the fairness that God will create”

CH4 720 There is a longing in our hearts O God *Tune: Longing*
verses 1, 2, 4 only

Prayers of the People

Sing Psalms 145 (adapted) LORD God you're gracious *Tune: Dunblane Cathedral*
(CH3 501)

Benediction

Sung Amen

Worship Leader: Brian Drummond
Scripture Reader: Edith Watt
Prayers of the people: Don and Heather Ferguson
Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version Anglicised unless otherwise stated.
Call to worship: Contemporary English Version and the Revised English Bible.
All hymns from Church Hymnary 4th Edition unless otherwise stated
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Psalm 145 (adapted, verses 8-9, 10-11, 13b-14, 17-18 – see next page)

adapted from the version in “Sing Psalms”, produced in 2003 by the Psalmody and Praise Committee of the Free Church of Scotland*

8-9

LORD God you're gracious and compassionate;
You're slow to anger, rich in steadfast love.
You LORD are good to all that you have made,
And merciful to all on earth that move.

10-11

All you have made will give you praise, O LORD;
Your saints will all unite to bless your name.
They will declare the glory of your reign,
Your pow'r and your might they will all proclaim.

13b-14

You LORD are faithful to your promises;
You show your love to all that you have made.
You LORD yourself uphold all those who fall
You lift up everyone who is bowed down.

17-18

LORD God you're just and good in all your ways;
You show your love to all that you have made.
You LORD are near to all who call on you,
all who call out in truth to you for aid.

* <https://freechurch.org/praise-resources/>

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