

Edinburgh: The New Town Church
Sunday 20 October 2024

Welcome and announcements

Call to Worship including John 5:46 & 47 (CEV) & Luke 24:27 (GNB)

(Leader:) Jesus was criticised by people who said he was breaking the law of Moses

**(All:) Jesus said to them “Moses wrote about me,
and if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me.
But if you don’t believe what Moses wrote, how can you believe what I say?”**

(Leader:) After Jesus had been killed and had come back to life
he met two of his followers walking along a road

**(All:) And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself
in all the Scriptures,
beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.**

CH4 6 (Psalm 9) God shall endure for aye

Tune: Stroudwater

Prayer finishing with Lord’s prayer

Introduction to first reading

Reading Deuteronomy 32: 1-27 (NRSVA)

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;
let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

2 May my teaching drop like the rain,
my speech condense like the dew;
like gentle rain on grass,
like showers on new growth.

3 For I will proclaim the name of the Lord;
ascribe greatness to our God!

4 The Rock, his work is perfect,
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God, without deceit,
just and upright is he;

5 yet his degenerate children have dealt falsely with him,
a perverse and crooked generation.

6 Do you thus repay the Lord,
O foolish and senseless people?

Is not he your father, who created you,
who made you and established you?

7 Remember the days of old,
consider the years long past;
ask your father, and he will inform you;
your elders, and they will tell you.

8 When the Most High apportioned the nations,
when he divided humankind,

he fixed the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the gods;
9 the Lord's own portion was his people,
Jacob his allotted share.
10 He sustained him in a desert land,
in a howling wilderness waste;
he shielded him, cared for him,
guarded him as the apple of his eye.
11 As an eagle stirs up its nest,
and hovers over its young;
as it spreads its wings, takes them up,
and bears them aloft on its pinions,
12 the Lord alone guided him;
no foreign god was with him.
13 He set him upon the heights of the land,
and fed him with produce of the field;
he nursed him with honey from the crags,
with oil from flinty rock;
14 curds from the herd, and milk from the flock,
with fat of lambs and rams;
Bashan bulls and goats,
together with the choicest wheat—
you drank fine wine from the blood of grapes.
15 Jacob ate his fill;
Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked.
You grew fat, bloated, and gorged!
He abandoned God who made him,
and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.
16 They made him jealous with strange gods,
with abhorrent things they provoked him.
17 They sacrificed to demons, not God,
to deities they had never known,
to new ones recently arrived,
whom your ancestors had not feared.
18 You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you;
you forgot the God who gave you birth.
19 The Lord saw it, and was jealous;
he spurned^[i] his sons and daughters.
20 He said: I will hide my face from them,
I will see what their end will be;
for they are a perverse generation,
children in whom there is no faithfulness.
21 They made me jealous with what is no god,
provoked me with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with what is no people,
provoke them with a foolish nation.
22 For a fire is kindled by my anger,
and burns to the depths of Sheol;
it devours the earth and its increase,
and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.
23 I will heap disasters upon them,
spend my arrows against them:

24 wasting hunger,
 burning consumption,
 bitter pestilence.
 The teeth of beasts I will send against them,
 with venom of things crawling in the dust.
 25 In the street the sword shall bereave,
 and in the chambers terror,
 for young man and woman alike,
 nursing child and old grey head.
 26 I thought to scatter them
 and blot out the memory of them from humankind;
 27 but I feared provocation by the enemy,
 for their adversaries might misunderstand
 and say, 'Our hand is triumphant;
 it was not the Lord who did all this.'

Responses to the first reading

Anthem

Introduction to second reading

Reading Revelation 3: 14-22 (NRSVA)

14 'And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:

15 'I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot.
 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing." You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19 I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. 20 Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. 21 To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.'

"If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river"
 Isaiah 48:18 (NIV)

Let us commit to doing what God says will achieve peace ...
 ... as we offer one another a sign of peace.

Dedication of offering

CH4 708 O Lord, the clouds are gathering *Tune: O Lord The Clouds*
verses 1, 2, 4 only *(A Never-Failing Stream)*

Sermon "Believing Moses to believe Jesus"

CH4 261 Father eternal, Ruler of creation *Tune: Old 124th*
verses 1, 2, 4, 5 only

Prayers of the People

CH4 617 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose *Tune: Lux Tremenda*
verses 1, 2, 3a & 4b (see next page)

Benediction

Sung Amen

Worship Leader: Brian Drummond
Scripture Reader: Helen Cox
Prayers of the people: Susan McLarty
Organist/pianist: Jamie Turnbull

Sources:

Scripture reading(s) taken from the New Revised Standard Version unless otherwise stated.
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CH4 617 Great and deep the Spirit's purpose verses 1, 2, 3a & 4b

1. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose,
hidden now in mystery;
Nature bursts with joyful promise,
ripe with what is yet to be.
In a wealth of rich invention,
still the work of art unfolds -
barely have we seen, and faintly,
what God's great salvation holds.
2. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
making Jesus seen and heard.
Every age of God's creation
grasps new meanings from the Word.
Show us, Holy Spirit, show us
your new work begun today;
eyes and ears and hearts are open,
teach us what to do and say.
- 3a. Great and deep the Spirit's purpose
all God's children brought to birth,
freed from hunger, fear and evil
every corner of the earth. ...
- 4b. ... All fulfilled and all perfected,
each uniquely loved and known,
Christ in glory unimagined
once for all receives his own.