

Barthol Chapel and Tarves joint worship
Sunday 30th Aug 2020
9.45 for 10.00am on Zoom



“Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’ “ Acts 7:33

Introduction

‘I’m of the opinion that we’re always on holy ground and some days it’s just more apparent.’ Jason Gray

Introduction

Today we will explore what being on ‘holy ground’ might mean for us today. The image used here is of a desert landscape. That may be what springs to mind when we read a verse like the one from Acts. Let your imagination call up other situations that you might encounter in your own daily life.

Call to worship

Leader: Every day, God calls each of us by name.

**All: We come, listening for the Word of God
in the songs and stories that touch our hearts.**

Leader: Every day, God fills the world with good things.

**All: We come, looking for signs of God’s presence
in the faces of loved ones, friends, and strangers.**

Leader: The goodness of God is all around us.

All: Here we are, on holy ground!

CH4 112 God whose almighty word

1.
God whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard
and took their flight
hear us we humbly pray
and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray
let there be light!

2.
**Saviour who came to bring
on your redeeming wing
healing and sight
health to the sick in mind
sight to the inly blind
now to all humankind
let there be light.**

3.
Spirit of truth and love
life-giving holy dove
speed forth your flight
move o'er the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

4.
Blessed and holy Three
glorious Trinity
Wisdom, Love, Might,
boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride
through the world far and wide
let there be light.

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

(You are invited to unmute yourself for the Lord's Prayer)

The burning bush

The logo of the burning bush is one we are very familiar with. It first appeared on Church of Scotland documents in 1691 and continues to be used today.

The version pictured here was created by Danny Ross.

The design and format may have changed but the essential symbolism has not. The Latin inscription on the official Church of Scotland logo translates as 'It was not, however, consumed'

This echoes the teaching of John Calvin.

The Church website states that

'He saw the burning bush as representative of the people of God: the Church which suffers in any age or place but against which not even the gates of Hell can prevail.'



The Word of God: Exodus 3:1-6 New International Reader's Version

Moses at the Burning Bush

Moses was taking care of the flock of his father-in-law Jethro. Jethro was the priest of Midian. Moses led the flock to the western side of the desert. He came to Horeb. It was the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him from inside a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire. But it didn't burn up. ³ So Moses thought, "I'll go over and see this strange sight. Why doesn't the bush burn up?"

⁴ The LORD saw that Moses had gone over to look. So God spoke to him from inside the bush. He called out, "Moses! Moses!"

"Here I am," Moses said.

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals. The place you are standing on is holy ground." ⁶ He continued, "I am the God of your father. I am the God of Abraham. I am the God of Isaac. And I am the God of Jacob." When Moses heard that, he turned his face away. He was afraid to look at God.

Music: 'This is a Holy Place' by Greig de Blicke of New Scottish Hymns

This is a holy place
How can I be here,
how can I show my face?
For what do I deserve?
No more than judgement and disgrace

How can I enter Your presence lightly
Forgetting all You've done,
forgetting all You've done?
Let me remember Your sacrifice,
and the price at which this freedom is won

I am a sinner yet
How deep I've wounded,
how shallow my regret
And though I don't deserve
Your blood has cancelled out my debt

I will not enter Your presence lightly
Forgetting all You've done, forgetting all
You've done
Lord I remember Your sacrifice, and the
price at which this freedom is won

Oh Spirit now begin
Come sanctify me, and
break this heart of sin
And let my life become
A place that Christ might enter in

I will not enter Your presence lightly
Forgetting all You've done,
Great Father, Spirit, Son
I will remember Your sacrifice,
And the love with which my freedom is won

Message

"We stand before a burning bush whenever other human beings share with us something of their relationship with God or something of the movements of their hearts. In such moments may we always realize that we stand on holy ground." Margaret Silf

Ideas for consideration

- How can God work through you this week and beyond?
- Is there someone who you think could do with a visit or a phone call to see how they are doing?
- Is there something in the community, the church or a charity that you have thought about supporting in some way?
- Take time, if you can, to re-read today's reading. Reflect on the words.

Make space in the day to seek a sense of God's call.
Do not be afraid to talk to others about where you are feeling led.
Sometimes our calling comes from the most unlikely of places.

Whether you are sitting looking out of a window, out walking, listening to music or praying, take time to be amazed at God's goodness. Remind yourself that God knows you by name and loves you more than you can ever imagine or understand.

Use the words of the song 'This is a holy place' and let God speak to you.

Prayers for others

CH4 550 As the deer pants for the water

1.

As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul belongs to you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.
*You alone are my strength and shield,
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.*

2.

I want you more than gold or silver;
Only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver,
And the apple of my eye.
You alone are...

3.

You're my friend and you are my brother,
Even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other,
So much more than anything.
*You alone are my strength and shield,
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.*

Blessing

Astonished by God's goodness,
stunned by the God who calls us by name,
speechless at God's love,
let us go out into the world
as witnesses to the holy ground all around us
and greet each other with signs of peace.
Amen

Notices

Next Sunday 9.45 for 10.00am Joint Worship

Alison will be back from annual leave and conducting worship.

If you would like to be added to the e-mail list for the link to Sunday's live worship gathering on zoom or join in on your landline please contact:

Rob e-mail sessionclerk@bartholchapel.org or Susanna Tel 851345 or e-mail smbichard@aol.com.

Pastoral Matters

To contact the minister please Tel 851295 or e-mail

aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk

Care in the Community if you are aware of anyone in Tarves who needs help of any kind please contact Ruth 851887

Tuesday 11.00am Tarves Session Coffee Morning hosted by Susanna

Wednesday 02 September 7.00pm

Zoom training provided by the Torch Trust on how to become a 'Sight loss friendly church'.

Thursday 03 September 7.00pm

Tarves Session meeting on Zoom – link will be sent out nearer the time.

Tarves Parish Church of Scotland.

Registered Charity: SC 017161 CCLI: 2417487, 2417504, 24174