

Quiet Time Worship
Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church
Wednesday 15th May 2022

Opening Words

A very warm welcome to you, from the Sanctuary at Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church in Giffnock to wherever you are, joining me within the church itself joining us through zoom or perhaps listening to the podcast at a time that is suitable to you. We come apart for a few moments to quietly contemplate the things of God. The order for this evening is just a little different and is split into 5 sections. Many may be aware that the Church of Scotland meets in General Assembly, starting this Saturday through to next Thursday although there have been a number of preparation days in the past few weeks. This year the Assembly is split into daily sections, the opening day with its ceremonial function and dealing with matters reserved to the Assembly Trustees, then we have days dealing with belief & order, Faith Action, witness & service and then finally looking back and looking forward.

We will have an extract from a hymn and a short prayer for each section which will conclude with the words which I invite you to join in should you wish:

Lord of the beginning and Lord of the end,
Be with us through our journey. Amen

Opening Day

(CH4 19)

Our first words from a hymn will be very well known I am sure and whilst not usually sung on the first day are synonymous with the Communion Service on the Monday morning. A Psalm of praise and affirmation.

**Ye Gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
Doors that do last for aye,
Be lifted up, that so the King
Of glory enter may.
But who is he that is the King,
The King of glory? Who is this?
The Lord of hosts, and none but he,
The King of glory is**

Let us pray

Father God we bring before you this evening those in positions of power and authority. We remember the Queen and her family, leaders of our Governments at Westminster and Holyrood, newly elected or re-elected councilors in our Local Authorities. May they all strive for truth and justice remembering the influence they can have on all our lives and that they may work for the good of the many not the few.

We pray for the leaders of our faith communities, particularly those tasked with organizing and running the General Assembly in the week ahead, those presenting reports and those hearing them and acting upon them.

Lord of the beginning and Lord of the end,
Be with us through our journey. Amen

Belief and Order

(CH4 137)

Monday brings reports about Theology, Legal matters, relations with other faith groups and reports from a number of Trusts which the Church run. We turn to another well known hymn that reminds us in simple phraseology but profound meaning the greatness of God and the order He has in the universe.

**Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.**

**He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.**

Let us pray,
Father God we are reminded of your overarching love for us and your part in creation that in the beginning, out of chaos you created order. Not only that but you gave us the means to tell of your love throughout this world. We recognise that order and structure can be an aid and give thanks for those within our Church who seek to try to ensure your message is best served and proclaimed through these means. We give

thanks for Grant Barclay, serving your Church as Presbytery Clerk of Glasgow, Convenor of the Legal Questions Committee and now with additional Civic and National responsibilities. We remember also the work of John McPake as he represents our understanding of our faith to other groups and denominations in Scotland and beyond.

Lord of the beginning and Lord of the end,
Be with us through our journey. Amen

Faith Action

(CH 4 252)

We have sung this more modern hymn a number of times and as we listen to the words of the first two verses we can start to think about the work of the main church forums dealing with the mission of the church at home and abroad.

**As a fire is meant for burning
With a bright and warming flame,
So the Church is meant for mission,
Giving glory to God's name.
Preaching Christ, and not our customs,
Let us build a bridge of care,
Joining hands across the nations,
Finding neighbours everywhere.**

**We are learners; we are teachers;
We are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
We are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
We will show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit.
We will live to God's delight**

Let us pray:

Father God we give you thanks for those within in our Church who engage with the issues of the day within our society, who challenge us and our politicians to think how our world should look. Asking difficult questions and at times making us feel uncomfortable with our own thoughts and actions – we have much to learn but much to teach.

Father God we thank you for those within our Church who engage with us as ministers of your Word with ministries of many formats. We are grateful to have within our fellowship Gillian and her family, we ask that you watch over them and all who minister in your name.

Father God we thank you for those within our Church who engage with the wider world. We look at our world and in particular we cannot fail to bring before you the war in Ukraine and the impact it is having in that country, its neighbours and the wider world. Whilst that situation is forefront in our news we know that is not the only part of your world in conflict – we pray for peace and the peace makers – by our gentle loving actions we will show that Christ is light.

Father God, we thank you for those who engage in the mission of the Church. We know that much energy is being expended looking at Presbytery plans and the unsettling impact that can have on congregations and ministers, We seek your guidance throughout that process that people may see a new way of working that is positive and enriching. We also recognise that each of these congregations is a community of your people and it is that community that your church is to minister to. We pray for our own community at this time, those who live and work here in Giffnock and that we may but a true mirror to them of your love and care.

Lord of the beginning and Lord of the end,
Be with us through our journey. Amen

Worship & Service

(CH4 258)

Let us pause for a moment as we hear played for us the Spanish hymn tune Cuando el Pobre – “When the Poor” as our thought turn to serving and caring for others

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA3xyw1uJL8>

The lovely Spanish tune we have just heard has had the following words set to them. We will just hear the first verse but the other 3 can be found at hymn 258.

**When the hungry who have nothing share with strangers;
When the thirsty give such water as they have;
When in weakness, we lend strength to one another;
God goes with us on the pathways of our lives.
God goes with us on the pathways of our lives.**

Let us pray:

Father God, we bring before you now the work of our social care arm, CrossReach and give you thanks for the work it does in looking after the elderly, the confused, the sick, the disadvantaged, the troubled youngsters and broken people. Much of their work goes on without fuss or fanfare but touches the lives of some of the most needy in our community. Our care, though is not just restricted to that work and we give you thanks for all who work in the caring professions.

Lord of the beginning and Lord of the end,
Be with us through our journey. Amen

Looking Back & Looking Forward

(CH4 237)

For our last extract we turn to the last verse of that well known hymn that urges us not to look back but to look forward, in faith, knowing that we are not alone:

**Look forward in faith,
God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ,
His Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live
Within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever in him.
He rules o'er earth and space!**

We end our service this evening with the universal prayer taught to us:

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

Blessing

We go from here in peace and in the company of God
who goes with us, and who offers us hope and life in
Christ. The peace of Christ be with us all. AMEN