

Worship Sheet for Sunday 9 August – Who am I? Child of God.

Martin Fair, the Moderator, has provided a service to give ministers some time off. The full service is available on the Church website but parts of it are provided here alongside some local material. In John 1 we read that because of the Word becoming flesh, WE can become children of God. With so many people wondering who they really are and what is the point to life that is a wonderful truth.

Call: Let us worship God for this is the day that the Lord has made

Pray Lord, we've had a lot to think about over recent months – the immediate need to stay safe (ourselves and our loved ones), the practical issues of being shut in, working from home for some, not being able to work for others; children being at home; but there have been thoughts of the future, hopes for some kind of normality; deeper thoughts – where is this going to end? What REALLY matters? And where do I fit in? Maybe even what is the meaning of MY life? Help us to make room for you, to gauge what matters by your standards, to trust you through the uncertainties and to hold firm to your promises. Thank you that in your Son we really are your children. Help us to rejoice in that, to be open about it and to allow your Spirit to work in our lives to forgive, restore and equip us for your service. Bless all in need of your care and in our prayer walk we remember those living north to the Esk and beyond. Hear us as we pray the Lord's Prayer Our Father.... Amen.

Read John 1:1-18 from The Message read by Rev Aftab Gohar, Moderator of Presbytery of Falkirk.

Thought The Moderator uses a quote from the book Sophie's World to get us to think about who we are and why we are here. What's most important to you? If you are starving, then food; if you're dying of the cold, then warmth, if you're lonely, then probably company. But if our basic needs are satisfied, what then? We know there is more to life than the basics. And as Jesus said, we don't live by bread alone. In lockdown, I suspect many of us have been doing a fair bit of thinking, maybe worrying. We've had to think about the basics: health, safety, even food – some of you have been shielding, some of us have been wary of the shops. We have been more isolated from others – and I don't just mean 2 metres! But beyond that haven't these months got us thinking? Clearly, people matter more than possessions and perhaps there's been a greater awareness not only of friends and family, but others in the community, especially those who care and serve – and maybe some more prayer – and thoughts of God?

John wanted his readers to appreciate that God had come near to them. The eternal Word had become a real human being. Jesus became one of us. Why? So that we might be forgiven and be accepted as children of God. There are a lot of answers we could give to the question "Who am I?" Some very personal. BUT here is a wonderful answer that can be true for us all: I am a child of God. May that potential become a reality for you – put your trust in Jesus.

Praise CH4 392 When I survey the wondrous cross (From Greenbank Church in Edinburgh).

Prayer by Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, Faith Nurture Forum

Lord God, We give thanks for all those who nurture faith – through work with children, in discipleship, in the leading of worship, in outreach to the world around. We give thanks and pray for those who engage with children and young people in Sunday schools and Messy Church, mid-week activities and holiday clubs, youth groups and school chaplaincies. Inspire them as they keep our young people involved in different ways. Encourage them as, in faith, they plant seeds in hearts and minds. We give thanks and pray for those who lead Bible studies and discussion groups, wrestling with the issues of the day, seeking to open minds and mature faith. We give thanks and pray for those who are leading worship at this time, challenged to adapt to new ways of engaging. We give thanks for new opportunities to touch hearts and minds. We pray for discernment as we move forward – what to take with us, what to leave behind. We give thanks and pray for those in the ministries of the church – parish ministers, Ordained Local Ministers, Chaplains and specialist ministries, Deacons, Readers and Locums. Grant them strength and wisdom in these difficult days; imagination and openness as they seek your guiding. We pray for those discerning a call to ministry, those in training, those seeking their first charge. Be their light, their support, their assurance in their questioning, in their formation. We give thanks and pray for the members of the new Faith Nurture Forum and for the staff working from their homes – for their commitment to the life and work of the church in these uncertain times - supporting, resourcing, enabling, encouraging, responding to change, working alongside congregations, concerned for the poorest and most marginalised. We give thanks and pray for each other. For the assurance of your love and care; for your peace in our lives; for hearts on fire with the good news of Jesus; for imagination and courage in mission and

fresh expressions of faith; for willingness to embrace the challenges of the changing days ahead. In Jesus name we pray Amen

Blessing May the Lord bless you. Amen.

Sermon, prayers and news (or links to them) will be uploaded to our website www.oldandstandrews.com and the Old and St Andrew's Facebook page. Feel free to copy this and pass it on to Church members or friends who might not use the web or social media

This week, in addition to the mini service and the sermon you can get the complete service pre-recorded by Rt Rev Martin Fair and others on the OSA Church website.

See updates on things like this on Montrose Old and St Andrew's Church Facebook page

New : The Dial a Reflection phone line is operational. You can phone in for the mini service from Sunday (and as an option too, the sermon) on a landline local number for those who don't have access to the internet. Calls charged at local rate and may be free if you have inclusive calls with your phone package.

01674 902624

The material will be changed weekly in time for Sunday mornings

OSA Kirk Session has set up a group to plan for our reopening but there is a lot of work to do and it still remains the case that our experience of worship under the current restrictions would be very different to what we would have been accustomed. Please bear with us as we plan and prepare and keep an eye on the changing regulation and guidance coming from both the government and the Church.

Additional steps will be taken to try to reach out to those who don't have access to internet or social media but in the meantime please pass on details of the dial a reflection.

Dr McLean is going to take some time off and anyone in urgent need of a minister is asked to contact Rev Geoff Redmayne in the first instance on 01674 675634.

It is good to see things being freed up and the numbers far lower than they were, but we still need to be careful.

Please continue to pray for one another and support where you can and remember all involved in the preparations for reopening when the time is right. Ian