

ORDER OF SERVICE: ST ANDREWS

23 July 2023

Pentecost 8: Living with weeds?



Welcome & Sharing

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of strife, God is with us!

Come, O loving God, and pour your word into our hearts.

In the anguish and grief of everyday living, God is with us!

Hear our cries, O God, and quiet our spirits!

Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to God.

We come, with confidence and hope in the presence of God.

SONG: TiS 693 Come as you are

1

'Come as you are:
that's how I want you.

Come as you are;
feel quite at home,
close to my heart,
loved and forgiven.

Come as you are:
why stand alone?

2

'No need to fear,
love sets no limits;
no need to fear,
love never ends;
don't run away
shamed and disheartened,
rest in my love,
trust me again.

2 3
'I came to call sinners,
not just the righteous;
I came to bring peace,
not to condemn.
Each time you fail
to live by my promise,
why do you think
I'd love you the less?

4
'Come as you are:
that's how I love you;
come as you are,
trust me again.
Nothing can change
the love that I bear you;
all will be well,
just come as you are.'

Prayer

Introduction to the reading

SONG:

1
The reign of God, like farmer's
field,
bears weeds along with wheat;
the good and bad are intertwined
till harvest is complete.

2
Like mustard tree, the reign of God
from tiny seed will spread,
till birds of every feather come to
nest,
and there be fed.

3
Though hidden now, the reign of
God may,
yet unnoticed, grow;
from deep within it rises up,
like yeast in swelling dough.

4
The reign of God is come in
Christ;
the reign of God is near.
Ablaze among us, kindling
hearts,
the reign of God is here!

Words by Delores Dufner. Music trad

BIBLE READINGS: Matthew 13:24-30

REFLECTION

SONG:

**Don't be afraid,
my love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid,
my love is stronger, and I have promised,
promised to be always near.**

Words and music by John Bell. Copyright © 1995, WGRG, The Iona Community, Scotland.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God of love
We put our trust in you.

SONG

**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Thanksgiving

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

*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 forever.
Amen.***

SONG: TIS 648 Help us accept each other.

1

Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us
and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.

2

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.

3

Let your acceptance change us,
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practise your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.

4

Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!

THE BLESSING

[you are invited to light a candle as you leave the sanctuary]

PREACHER FOR NEXT WEEK: Mr Fergus McGinley