

Order of Service Sunday 22 August 2021

Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, you are present with us.

ALL: Here in this space, as much as any space.

Here in this moment, as much as in any moment.

Here with us as we feel buoyant and hopeful,

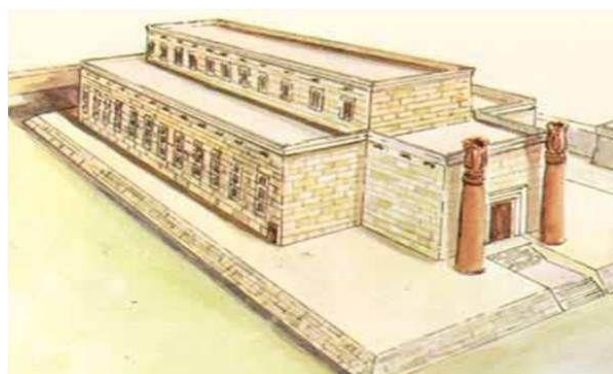
as much as when weighed down and challenged

by life's complexities.

Leader: Your sanctuary is wherever we worship.

**ALL: In the place we call Church,
in the place we call home,
and in the place we call creation.**

Leader: All belongs to you, and we find you wherever we are,
And so we offer You our worship now



Praise CH4 198 Let us build a house

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets
speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children learn to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Let us build a house where hands will
reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

Let us build a house where all are named
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and
claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

Prayers of Approach Lord's Prayer

The Word of God

1 Kings 8:6,10-11,22-30,41-43

⁶Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim..... ¹⁰And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.....

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, "There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me." ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷ 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Have regard to your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you said, "My name shall be there", that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays towards this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray towards this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling-place; heed and forgive....

⁴¹ 'Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays towards this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling-place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

John 6:66-69

⁶⁶ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Music CH4 54 Lord you have always been our home

Lord you have always been our home
Through every generation known;
Before the hills or earth were made
You are the eternal God alone.

Our lives like grass spring from the ground
and flourish in the morning sun;
then evening comes, and brightness fades
and we and all our strength are done.

From dust we came, to dust return,
for in your clear eternal sight
a thousand years pass as a day
or as a few hours in the night.

Teach us to value life's brief span,
and let our minds be truly wise.
"How long, O Lord, till you return?"
In mercy hear your servants' cries.

At each day's dawning make us glad;
Fill us with your love all our days;

And we will sing aloud for joy
and offer you our lifelong praise.

Reflection

Prayers for others

Praise CH4 622 We sing a love

We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like
scorching flame,
enfolds the earth, springs up like water
clear:
come, living love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the
cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.

We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love, that stands alone and undismayed:

come, strengthening love, live in our
hearts today.

We sing a love, that, wandering, will not
rest
until it finds its way, it's home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on
refreshed:
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts
today.

We sing the Holy Spirit, full of love
who seeks out scars of ancient bitterness,
brings to our wounds the healing grace of
Christ:
come, radiant love, live in our hearts
today.

Blessing

Take Home Suggestion

During a time of pandemic when for much of the past year we have not been able to meet in our sanctuaries or not in the same way that we have done previously, the link between buildings and the community of people who used that building has been tested. Over the next week think about

- How has your worship life been affected by that change?
- What did you miss about not being able to worship in a particular building?
- What did you find an unexpected benefit of these changes?
- What lessons do you think the Church could learn from this experience

Notices

Next Sunday Formartine Churches (Barthol Chapel and Tarves, Methlick, and Udney Pitmedden) **Big Sing at Haddo 10.00am All Welcome BYOPicnic**

Sunday 5 September Morning Worship All Welcome

9.30am Tarves Kirk The Church will be laid out café-style and coffee will be served after worship. The service can also be accessed live on Zoom.

11.15am Barthol Chapel Gather from 10.45am. Bring your own coffee.

Please note that certain restrictions will still apply, viz, hand-sanitising, wearing of masks and Contact and Trace. Please respect in so far as possible the wishes of anyone who wants to maintain physical distancing. Anyone with symptoms of Covid should remain at home.

Pastoral Care Please contact Alison 01651 851295. From 29 August – 5 September please contact Susanna Bichard 01651 851345. From 5 September – 13 September please contact Rev Dr Will Stalder 01651 806264.