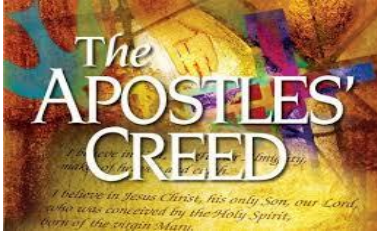


## Barthol Chapel and Tarves Kirks

Order of Service Sunday 24 September 2023 10.00am



**The Apostles' Creed – I believe in the forgiveness of sins....**

### Call to Worship (Based on Matthew 18:21-22)

Leader: If someone sins against me, how often should I forgive? Seven times

**ALL: Jesus says, "Not seven times but seventy times seven".**

Leader: Let us worship God

### Praise 482 Come let us to the Lord, our God

Come, let us to the Lord our God  
with contrite hearts return;  
our God is gracious, nor will leave  
the desolate to mourn.

His voice commands the tempest forth,  
and stills the stormy wave;  
His arm is sure and strong to smite,  
but also strong to save.

Long has the night of sorrow reigned,  
the dawn shall bring us light;  
God shall appear, and we shall rise  
with gladness in his sight.

Our hearts, if God we seek to know,  
shall know him, and rejoice;  
His coming like the morn shall be,  
the morning songs his voice.

As dew upon the tender herb  
diffusing fragrance round;  
as showers that usher in the spring,  
and cheer the thirsty ground:

So shall his presence bless our souls,  
and shared a joyful light;  
That hallowed morn shall chase away  
the sorrows of the night.

### Prayer of Approach Lord's Prayer

### Table Talk: Big sins, little sins

### Praise 361 Forgiveness is your gift

Forgiveness is your gift,  
both cleansing and renewing,  
to catch us when we drift,  
our base desires pursuing;  
and hug us back to life  
and bring us to a feast  
where all will celebrate  
the life your love released.

Your grace goes out to meet  
the sinful and the doubting  
your arms and dancing feet  
speak louder than all shouting:  
O God, how great your love  
which takes us empty in,  
and, with our worth unproved  
let's better life begin.

## **The Word of God: Isaiah 59:1-15, 19-20**

*59 See, the LORD's hand is not too short to save,*

*nor his ear too dull to hear.*

*<sup>2</sup> Rather, your iniquities have been barriers*

*between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you*

*so that he does not hear.*

*<sup>3</sup> For your hands are defiled with blood,  
and your fingers with iniquity;  
your lips have spoken lies,  
your tongue mutters wickedness.*

*<sup>4</sup> No one brings suit justly,  
no one goes to law honestly;  
they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies,  
conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity.*

*<sup>5</sup> They hatch adders' eggs,  
and weave the spider's web;  
whoever eats their eggs dies,  
and the crushed egg hatches out a viper.*

*<sup>6</sup> Their webs cannot serve as clothing;  
they cannot cover themselves with what they make.*

*Their works are works of iniquity,  
and deeds of violence are in their hands.*

*<sup>7</sup> Their feet run to evil,  
and they rush to shed innocent blood;  
their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,  
desolation and destruction are in their highways.*

*<sup>8</sup> The way of peace they do not know,  
and there is no justice in their paths.  
Their roads they have made crooked;  
no one who walks in them knows peace.*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore justice is far from us,  
and righteousness does not reach us;*

*we wait for light, and lo! there is darkness;  
and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.*

*<sup>10</sup> We grope like the blind along a wall,  
groping like those who have no eyes;  
we stumble at noon as in the twilight,  
among the vigorous as though we were dead.*

*<sup>11</sup> We all growl like bears;  
like doves we moan mournfully.  
We wait for justice, but there is none;  
for salvation, but it is far from us.*

*<sup>12</sup> For our transgressions before you are many,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our transgressions indeed are with us,  
and we know our iniquities:*

*<sup>13</sup> transgressing, and denying the LORD,  
and turning away from following our God,  
talking oppression and revolt,  
conceiving lying words and uttering them from the heart.*

*<sup>14</sup> Justice is turned back,  
and righteousness stands at a distance;  
for truth stumbles in the public square,  
and uprightness cannot enter.*

*<sup>15</sup> Truth is lacking,  
and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.  
The LORD saw it, and it displeased him  
that there was no justice.....*

*<sup>19</sup> So those in the west shall fear the name of the LORD,  
and those in the east, his glory;  
for he will come like a pent-up stream  
that the wind of the LORD drives on.*

*<sup>20</sup> And he will come to Zion as Redeemer,  
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the LORD.*

## **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

*<sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### **Praise 549 How deep the Father's love for us**

How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that he should give his only Son  
to make a wretch his treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss;  
The Father turns his face away,  
as wounds which mar the chosen One  
bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon his shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held him there,  
my pardon he accomplished;  
his dying breath has brought me life-  
I know that "it is finished".

I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
his death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from all of this?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart,  
his wounds have paid my ransom.

### **Reflection: Forgiveness**

#### **Praise 522 The Church is wherever God's people are praising**

The Church is wherever God's people are  
praising,  
knowing they're wanted and loved by their  
Lord.

The Church is wherever Christ's followers  
are trying  
to live and to share out the good news of  
God.

The Church is wherever God's people are  
loving,  
where all are forgiven and start once  
again,  
where all are accepted, whatever their  
background,  
whatever their past and whatever their  
pain.

The Church is wherever God's people are  
seeking  
to reach out and touch folk wherever they  
are-  
conveying the gospel, it's joy and it's  
comfort,  
to challenge, refresh, and excite and  
inspire.

The Church is wherever God's people are  
praising,  
knowing we're wanted and loved by our  
Lord.  
The Church is wherever we as Christ's  
followers  
are trying to live and to share out the good  
news of God.

### **Prayers for Others**

#### **Praise 519 Love divine, all loves excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;

Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,  
changed from glory into glory,

till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

## **Benediction**

## **Notices**

**Today after Worship Congregational Meetings of Barthol Chapel and Tarves to vote on Proposed Union of Barthol Chapel, Tarves and Udney and Pitmedden.** The Basis of Union is available for anyone who wants a copy. At the close of this service members and adherents of Barthol Chapel are asked to make their way to the vestry where their meeting will be held as soon as the Tarves meeting is concluded. Coffee is available.

## **Worship Arrangements**

Barthol Chapel and Tarves will have united morning worship services at Tarves at 10.00am. This service will normally be accessible on Zoom.

**How Rural Churches Thrive** Presbytery Reading Group 'How Village Churches Thrive—A Practical Guide' (ISBN: 9781781402191, Cost £9.99, Also Kindle edition available) commences Wednesday 23 August on Zoom morning 9.45am or evening 8.00pm. Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/73701189387?pwd=cVl4WnVTekFiNW9ScVE5OVZzVEFiQT09>

## **TDT Tarves Showcase Event, Sunday 1 October 2.00-4.00pm Melvin Hall.**

Find out what Tarves and the surrounding area has to offer and get involved – more than 20 organisations taking part. The Church and FYP will both be there. Come along and support our local community.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving 22 October**

This year all donations will be shared around our own parishes of Barthol Chapel and Tarves. There is great need even in our own communities. You can bring any non perishable items, including toiletries, to the church over the coming weeks. This way you can donate little and often. Please ensure items have a long use by date. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Tarves Tuesday Coffee Mornings** 10.00 – 11.00am. All welcome.

**Tarves Tots** Thursday mornings 9.30-11.00am

**Pastoral Care:** Please contact the minister.