

The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

In our worship today, we share in our annual Guild Service, with contributions from members of the Guild. This year, as you might have gathered from the order of service, the Guild theme is "joy". So this week, I thought I might reflect on what can bring joy to the life of the Christian, even as we live in a world which often seems far from joyful.

Can I make what might sound like a radical statement? Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Often, our circumstances dictate how happy we feel (or not) at a particular time. When things are going well in our work or family life, we feel happy (and rightly so!). If things are not so good, then we tend to be at a low ebb. Joy, however, should produce a different response in our hearts. If we live as Christians with the joy of God in our lives, then our circumstances become less important to us. If we have the joy of God, then our circumstances do not have the final word – that belongs to our Father in heaven.

To illustrate the point, here is the story of Brother Yun, a Chinese Christian who faithfully proclaimed the message of love and hope which the Gospel offers, in spite of severe persecution. Yun writes in his autobiography of a worship meeting he attended in December 1983. Just after the meeting had concluded, Yun was confronted by about a dozen men carrying torches. One of these men ran at Yun with an electric baton, shocking him with hundreds of volts of electricity. Eventually, this encounter led Yun to be taken to a prison cell where the temperature was well below freezing. There, on the floor, he noticed a wooden box which happened to contain an old drum. In spite of his surroundings, he used the drum to praise God. This incensed the guards, and they mocked and ridiculed him.

At this most testing moment of his life, Yun could have been forgiven for abandoning all thought of God. Yet he responded in entirely the opposite way – He found joy, not in the circumstances he faced, but in the fact that he knew God as his Heavenly Father.

Let this story be an encouragement to you. The truth is that no matter what you face – even if you face death itself – you can find joy in a relationship with God as your Father.

You might well ask the question: 'How do I begin this relationship of joy with God?' Or you might ask: 'How do I continue in it?' The simple answer is that all you have to do is ask. If you ask God to grant you more of his joy in your life, then he will not fail you. So if you need to be strengthened to face trials in your life, or even if you need to be reminded that God is the source of the good you experience, then pray a simple prayer like this:

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are the source of all joy. I thank you that even when life is tough, I can find joy in your presence. I ask you to come into my life afresh, and fill me with joy, no matter what happens to me. AMEN.

Until next week... **The Lord bless you and keep you.**



Learning  
in  
the  
light  
of  
knowledge  
Moving in the Love of God



## INTIMATIONS

### Sunday 20th November 2016

#### POLWARTH PARISH CHURCH

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#### Office Hours:

Tuesday 9am–1pm

Friday 2pm–6pm

Saturday 10am–1pm

PRS Licence no.939321 CCL Licence no.494330

MRL Licence no.494347 PPL Licence no.1629764 CVL Licence no. 2313031

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#### Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are worshipping at Polwarth as a visitor or returning after an absence. We thank you for choosing to join us today and trust you will be comfortable in our midst and with our style of worship.

#### Today's Service

The service will be conducted by our Probationer Minister, **Allan Morton, Margaret Anderson** and members of the Guild. It is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readers will be: **Louise Stobie, Audrey Currie and Doris Tulloch**. The Prayers of Concern will be led by **Dawn Whittaker**.

**The Sunday School meets in the Sanctuary at 11am, before leaving for their own activities in the Small Hall. Any children present are most welcome to join them.**

#### Musical Accompaniment

**Dr Lance Whitehead**, our Director of Music, will provide the accompaniment to our praise as well as enhance our worship with his choices of music: **Organ Prelude:** Christopher Gibbons: Verse for the (Double) Organ; **Music for Quiet Reflection:** Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier: Récit de Nazard Organ; **Postlude:** F. W. Zachow: 'Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich hier'

#### Invitation to Tea

After the service the congregation is invited to the Hall to share in the hospitality provided by our Tea Teams. Please do join us and enhance our fellowship and our enjoyment. *Donations can be given to offset the costs involved.*

**Murray Aisle** (to your right at the front as you sit) The chapel area is set aside for quiet and personal prayer and reflection at any time.

**Large print versions of the Order of Service and Intimation sheets are available. Please ask someone on welcome duty if you require one.**

## Next Sunday

The service at 11am will be conducted by our Minister, the Rev. Jack Holt, and members of the congregation. It will be the First Sunday of Advent. The Readers will be **Peter and Christine Braynion**. The Prayers of Concern will be led by **Lynda Tulloch**.

## Daily Readings for the week beginning 21 November.

**Mon:** Revelation 14:1-5; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 21:1-4.

**Tues:** Revelation 14:14-19; Psalm 96:10-13;  
Luke 21:5-11.

**Wed:** Revelation 15:1-4; Psalm 98:1-3, 7-9;  
Luke 21:12-19.

**Thurs:** Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9;  
Psalm 100; Luke 21:20-28.

**Fri:** Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2; Psalm 84:3-6,8;  
Luke 21:29-33.

**Sat:** Revelation 22:1-7; Psalm 95:1-7; Luke 21:34-36.

**The next choir rehearsal will take place in the church on Sunday 27 November, 0930–1030, with a rehearsal for the 'music and movies' night for the last 15 minutes.**

**BB Company: Junior Section:** Unfortunately, despite further cooperation from the local primary school, no boys attended and so with regret, it was decided to abandon the project. Jack assured David Scott that Polwarth Church would be willing to support the BB movement if at all possible.

**Congregational Meeting: Today** at the close of the service, the Presbytery of Edinburgh calls a meeting of the congregation for the purposes of approving the Basis of a Reviewable Charge, which has been issued with the intimations. The Basis was approved unanimously by the Kirk Session at its meeting on Wednesday, 2 November. The meeting will be convened by the Rev Karen Campbell, member of the Presbytery's Deployment of Resources Committee. There will be an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions before a vote is taken. The congregation has been fully informed as to how this process proceeds from the recent Local Church Review & when considering the Basis the congregation will note that Presbytery has now presented our next stage of development in full accord with our chosen vision, aims and goals. A more formal edict from the Presbytery will be read beforehand..

## Seeking light in dark times ---a candlelit labyrinth walk

**Wednesday 30 November at 7.30pm in Polwarth Sanctuary** facilitated by Rev. Canon Frances Burberry. The experience may offer a renewed sense of well-being/inner peace or be a path to focus on a particular question or issue, meditation or prayer.

## EMMS International: Vision and Thanksgiving Service

**November 27th at 3pm at Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh:** James Petticrew, Development Officer, extends this invitation to the minister & congregation of Polwarth: This is the highlight of our anniversary year & and as one of our friends, you are very welcome to come to our historic service marking the extraordinary vision of our founding fathers, all leaders in the Edinburgh medical scene of the 1840s. Jonathan Lamb of Keswick Ministries is the main speaker with the Rev Dr Richard Frazer leading and EMMS friends and colleagues participating.

**FAIRTRADE:** New Christmas catalogue available & new items on Christmas Honesty table—orders to Dawn. The other Honesty Table has plenty of your regular favourites. **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.** Global Concerns Team.

**Christmas Soup Lunch Sunday 11th December:** We invite the congregation to the Polwarth Christmas Lunch Sunday 11th December. Please sign up at the back of church to help with planning. Donations taken on the day will cover costs and to raise funds: £100 to provide Caroline & the children in Zambia with a Christmas Lunch, Catering costs when we do a Bethany & church funds. (May we suggest a minimum £5). Global Concerns Team

**Advent Wreath:** Jack's tradition is to nominate a congregation person whose life or work in the church is an example of these Advent characteristics to light the Advent candle on that week. But the congregation are invited to nominate someone before 27th November as their own examples. Please If you think someone in our congregation exemplifies HOPE, PEACE, JOY or LOVE, then write it down & give it to Jack before **27 November** saying what word it is, who it is, and why they have been nominated.

**Burns Supper on Friday 20 January at 6.30pm 2017 in the Drennan Hall.** Please put this date in your diaries now.

**Tickets: £15.00 (BYOB) available from Audrey Currie or Margaret Anderson.** People participating: Audrey Currie chairing, Rev. Jack Holt proposing 'The Immortal Memory', Lance Whitehead organising music and song entertainment, Jenny Whitehead and Allan Morton singing, with Margaret Anderson doing The Address to a Haggis and extract from Tam o' Shanter.

**Toast and Reply to the Lasses: Looking for two people who would like to give this a go!** Please speak with Audrey or Margaret if you would like to do this or if you can suggest someone.  
- Audrey & Margaret

**Poste Restante:** Poste Restante this year will be held on Sunday 11th December - 18th December. Donations will go to the Church Flower Fund. No cards will be delivered.

**SMALL CHANGE JARS:** Please bring to Church next Sunday your small change jars whether they be half filled or full. The end of November sees our fundraising come to a close for the charity Smalls for All. The final figure raised will be in the December Intimations. From December 2016 until November 2017 our small change jars will be supporting Edinburgh Direct Aid. Thank you from the Global Concerns Team.

**Tearfund Scotland Christmas Tour 2016:** Join us for an evening of beautiful carols and original Christmas songs on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** when the Tearfund Christmas tour will be coming to **St Catherine's Argyll**. Doors open **7pm** and the **concert starts at 7.30pm**. Tearfund has teamed up with some of Scotland's finest Christian musicians to celebrate Christmas 2016 with you in style. Singer-songwriters Yvonne Lyon, David Lyon and Allan McKinlay are joined by singer and musician Eilyn Oliver. Each performance will help to raise money for Tearfund's partners, bringing hope to poor communities throughout the world. Tickets cost £6 and can be bought from the church office (0131 667 7220) or online at Eventbrite.

**Nativity Carol Concert: Sunday 27 November, 3pm, St Andrew Square Gardens.** Everyone is welcome to join the Exile Gospel Choir, The Edinburgh Signing Choir and Craigentiny Primary School Choir in singing traditional carols.