

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

Locum Minister Rev Martin Prentice **Session Clerk:** Nicol Sclater 811242

Intimations

Sunday 21st Feb at 11am – Zoom Service – The first 5 minutes will be used to get everyone logged in and the service will start at 11.05am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5901432179?pwd=aEhqejNGR1RWc1oyek9RSXBZcXJpQT09>

Meeting ID: 590 143 2179

Passcode: 927045

(These details are the same every week)

Please contact Kathryn if you have any questions. Phone 811 242 or email k_sclater@hotmail.com

- The kirk Session for Orphir and Stenness and Orkney Presbytery have agreed for a feasibility study to be undertaken to investigate the possibilities within a proposal by Rev June Freeth which is also attached to this email.
- If you, or someone you are in contact with, would like to access pastoral care by telephone, please contact Carol Mainland 873596, Nicol Sclater 811242, Olivia Tait 811392 or Martin Prentice 851139.

Today is The First Sunday in Lent, the period of forty days leading up to Easter, in which Christians remember Jesus's withdrawal into the desert. During Lent we prepare ourselves, through prayer and reflection, for the suffering and death of Jesus, culminating in the celebration of his resurrection at Easter. Many Christians think of this time as a journey with Jesus to Jerusalem and to the cross.

In Luke 9:22-25 we read:

'The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be *killed, and on the third day be raised.*'

Then Jesus said to them all, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?'

These opening words about suffering and rejection and death, and about being raised must have been alarming for Jesus's disciples. How do these words speak to you today, especially at a time when the Pandemic is causing so much suffering and loss? How does it feel when Jesus invites you to "deny" yourself, "and take up your cross daily"? How does this gospel message speak to you as you think of the journey with Jesus through Lent to Easter?

The Journey: A Prayer for Lent by Rev. David Ogston:

Let the praises of God resound in this place to the one who is timeless
from us who are caught between yesterday and tomorrow:
to the one who is and will be,
from us who are caught between the darkness and the light.

Meet with us here, Redeemer Lord,
that we may offer you praise on the Lenten journey.
Guide us to where your pain is given for all, for our pardon and peace.
Wounded one, king of the sorrows, grant us your healing and wholeness.

Conqueror of death, bring us to the majestic morning
when the tomb was seen to be bare, your shroud but an empty shell,
your stone rolled away.

Spirit of flame that kindles hope, Spirit of fierce renewal,
lead us in gladness and glee, with a dancing step,
into the kingdom's promise.

Caught as we are between a time to mourn and a time to dance,
let the song begin:
let the trumpets of the resurrection drown the still sad music
of our failures and defeats,
till all at the last shall be harvest and your good purposes fulfilled.