

Church of Scotland: Orphir and Stenness Parish

Interim Moderator: Rev June Freeth 721449

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

Intimations

- For the time being, Orphir and Stenness kirk will not be open for Sunday worship.
- If you, or someone you are in contact with, would like to access pastore by telephone please contact Olivia Tait 811392, Carol Mainland 873596, Nicol Sclater 811242 or Martin Prentice 851139.
- The Church of Scotland sent an email thanking congregations for support in building the Olive Grove Chapel in the Tent of Nations near Bethlehem. There is information at <http://www.tentofnations.org/>

Our lives and our circumstances seem to change so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up. We are puzzled, or confused, worried or reassured, by the restrictions put in place to manage the Covid Pandemic, measures that differ from place to place, and change with little warning. We are concerned about what goes on in the world, alarmed by the progress of the disease, bemused or baffled by the American Presidential Election.

I am reminded of the words of the hymn:

Frail as summer's flower we flourish; Blows the wind and it is gone;

But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.

..... Praise the high eternal One.

This prayer by Rev. Martha Spong seems quite apt:

Holy One,

In the whirlwind of news, help us to listen for you.

In the turbulence of conflicting thoughts, help us to discern your will.

In the maelstrom of collective feelings, help us to find our centre in you.

To fractured families and friendships, to shattered and scattered systems,
to conflicted and colliding congregations,

help us show the strength found in your steadfast love.

Ground us in the wisdom only you can give.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

Stay safe in the way of Christ, but look out for one another.

Blessings,

Martin.

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