

Changes since 1773

You will remember that in the newsletter we asked folk to think about the changes since 1773, i.e. the differences that someone from 1773 would see today.

We'll reflect on these

Aberdalgie and Forteviot Church

1773



2023

250th Anniversary of Aberdalgie Church

24 September 2023

A special order of service will be available in Aberdalgie Church next Sunday, copies of which will be with the emailed handout for 1 October but to enable the housebound folk who get this handout weekly from their elder, these are some thoughts to help you to feel part of the fellowship on such a special occasion and to enable you to pray that the service may be helpful to many people.

"I genuinely believe that over the next decade the world will get more insecure and unstable"



**Ben Wallace
on resigning as
Defence Secretary
ten days ago**

In the midst of all the uncertainties Jesus offers a secure and certain hope for He is the same yesterday today and for ever.

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;
come ye before Him and rejoice!

2 Know that the LORD is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His flock, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

3 O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

4 Because the LORD our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Eternal God, Creator of the universe and Lord of time

we give that that in the midst of all the uncertainties and insecurities
Your truth at all times firmly stood and shall from age to age endure.

In our world of broken promises.

we praise Your name that You are utterly reliable as a promise-keeping God,
offering to us the only sure and certain hope for this world and the next.

In our self-centred world

we praise Your name that that You are the God of the Cosmos
Who so loved the world that in Jesus You entered the world
so that the Christian faith is not only for our scenario
but is global truth for the whole of our global village.

And therefore we give thanks for Your invitation to a relationship with Yourself
through Jesus Christ, the source of truth and lasting joy.

in His name



Changes

You will remember from the newsletter that we were asked to think what changes someone from 1773 would see if they came back today. Reflect on what is changing and unchangeable!

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;

'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be

Reading 1 John 1.1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our[a] joy complete.



“Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and for ever”

In the midst of all the changes
the need for Jesus is unchanging
the evidence for Jesus is unchanging and
the challenge of Jesus is unchanging

Eternal existence

Jesus is not an alien imposition, but the maker of the universe remaking us

Eventful entry

Jesus opted into the troubles of the world and therefore understands

Evidence for resurrection

The Christian faith is based not on feelings but on the evidence of facts

Experience for everyone

It is not a religious system but a relationship with God to which we are invited

Enthusiasm for evangelism

We have the joyous responsibility of passing on God's invitation

1 Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

2 Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

3 Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4 Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

5 Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.



Prayer of intercession

Lord as we give thanks for those
who have passed on our buildings and even more so those who have passed on the good news of Jesus.
Help us in our turn not to be the generation that drops the baton,
but rather to rejoice in passing on the good news of Jesus to a growing generation

Lord we give thanks for the freedom of worship which we have
and pray for those who do not have that freedom
in North Korea, Afghanistan, North Africa, India and Pakistan.

Lord hear us as we give thanks for friends and pray for those who are friendless
here - add in your own prayers for particular people up against it for one reasons or another

....
and as we sum up all our prays in the words Jesus taught all those who loved You to pray "Our Father ...

1 Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

On the 24th there will be a message from Rev Colin Williamson
and Rev James Aitchison will lead us in the opening prayer.

