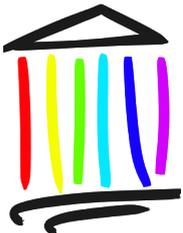


WELLINGTON CHURCH

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

We welcome into the life and worship of our congregation all people whatever their ethnic origin, gender, background, age, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability.
We affirm our diversity and the dignity of each person.

Love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)



SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gathering music

Words of welcome

Call to worship

Led by God to green pastures
we come to worship Him

By the still waters
we find our souls revived.

In the dark valley
we have no fear.

Anointed by His love,
**we dwell in the Lord's house,
surrounded by his love and mercy.**

Prayer of Approach

God of new and renewed community,
where two or three are gathered in your name,
you promise to be there.

You promise also
to be in parishes that meet this week online,
and in congregations that courageously keep on keeping on,
and in churches that try something very different today,
and even when we find ourselves alone.

Our children sing in Sunday school that the
church is not a building.

Let us be the church together, wherever we are,
gathered by your Spirit, as only your Spirit can gather.

And may we find you already in our midst,
as we close our eyes in prayer.

**Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Sung: For your generous providing (CH4 655)

Mark 12, 28-34: The First Commandment

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflection

Sung: I waited patiently on God (CH4 31)

Prayers of gratitude and concern

Strong, sheltering God,

As we find ourselves unexpectedly restricted in our movement,
we bless you for all the beautiful things of home;
warmth and shelter when the wind outside is bitter
food for the body and for the soul
treasured gifts and treasured memories
stability, acceptance, care.

We bless you for the chance to be ourselves
for the tasks that weave the pattern of our days
for the sweet, familiar round of ordinary things.

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

In these days of great uncertainty,
we call to mind and give thanks for many blessings;
for those who speak from reason,
who know the science,
whose profession it is to protect.

May we hear the voices of informed wisdom,
and give thanks for what is already here:
the knowledge that overcomes ignorance,
the love that overcomes fear,
the community that includes the grace we all need.

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

As we become increasingly aware of our interdependence,
we call to mind, and give thanks for those many people,
who, with courage, commitment and cheerfulness,
are working long hours to keep us safe, provisioned and cared-for;
all NHS staff, especially those on the frontline of treatment,
for all carers, at home and in the community,
for food producers, distributors and providers,
for cleaners and all who provide essential public services,

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

(continued)

God of the good news that spreads faster than fear,
God of the courage that comes from the heart:
Be with us as anxieties rise and with us as uncertainty grows.
Be with us when children ask difficult questions,
and with us when parents seem farther away.
Remind us that to be a community does not always mean
to be physically present beside those we know well.
It also can mean being spiritually present
with those who feel very alone;
and so we pray especially for Wellington Church,
for all our members, especially those who are elderly,
vulnerable or isolated,
for our neighbouring churches, and for our community.
Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God
Blessed are you, strong, sheltering God

In the days and months to come
Be in the kind word we extend,
the offer of help, the note or phone call of concern.
Be in the prayer that we whisper,
and the laugh that we share,
so that even in a time of chaos,
we might breathe into life a new creation.
May these days of great disruption
bear out what is always true:
that we can reach others
with the love you provide
when our roots remain in you.
In the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray together:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever, Amen.**

Sung: Longing for light (CH4 543)

Closing responses

On our hearts and our houses

the blessing of God

In our coming and going

the peace of God

In our life and believing

The love of God

At our end and new beginning

**the arms of God to welcome us
and bring us home.**

And now may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
that we may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Grateful thanks to the Corrymeela Community, Northern Ireland, for many of
the prayers.

Organist: Alan Kitchen

TODAY - SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

**Worship Online - Morning Service - Fourth Sunday in Lent
Lenten Appeal Service**

conducted by the Rev. Dr. Kathy Galloway

NEXT SUNDAY – 22ND MARCH

Worship Online - Morning Service - Fifth Sunday in Lent

MORE NOTES & DATES

LENTEN APPEAL - Three projects were chosen by the Mission and Outreach Committee for our support: **Dash Club, CrossReach** and **Families Together Project**. We are encouraging those still to donate to send your donations to the church. If a Gift Aid Envelope is required, please email the church office at: wellingtonchurch@btinternet.com and one can be sent out by post. Cheques should be made payable to: **Wellington Church of Scotland**.

WELLINGTON NEWS The deadline for material for the April edition is **Wednesday, 25th March at 12 noon**. If you have any news or articles for inclusion we would be very pleased to hear from you: email contributions: wellingtonchurch@btinternet.com or linda.m.brown@btinternet.com

LIFE AND WORK - Catherine Shaw Dunn has the current edition at home and will contact subscribers to arrange delivery.

MEMORIAL SERVICE - Thank you for coming to the Japanese curry lunch and the 9th anniversary meeting for the East Japan Earthquake. Donations of £276.34 were raised, which will be sent to Noda and Fudai Village Offices, Iwate, Japan, both along the Pacific coast and affected by tsunamis. Fumi and Yushin

INTERIM MODERATOR

Rev. Dr. Stewart Gillan

Tel: 07341 822058

Email:

SGillan@churchofscotland.org.uk

ASSISTING MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Roger Sturrock

Tel: 0141 942 8001

Mob: 07970 535358

Email:

RSturrock@churchofscotland.org.uk

LOCUM

Rev. Liz Johnson Blythe

Tel: 07885 536984

Email: lblythe@wellingtonchurch.co.uk

WELLINGTON CHURCH

77 Southpark Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8LE

www.wellingtonchurch.co.uk Telephone 0141 339 0454

Email: wellingtonchurch@btinternet.com

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