



# 80

Week beginning 3<sup>RD</sup> October 2021

## CERES KEMBACK and SPRINGFIELD

Charity No: SCO1471

Website: [www.ckschurch.org](http://www.ckschurch.org)

S.J.Peploe (1871-1945) *Ceres, Fife* Wardlaw Museum

**INTERIM MODERATOR:** Rev Bill Hunter 01337 832717

[whunter@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:whunter@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**SESSION CLERK:** Simon Weller 01334 652056

[simonweller@btinternet.com](mailto:simonweller@btinternet.com)

### PRAYER

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And we seek Your guiding hand  
In the days in which we live.  
Grant that we might discern Your guidance  
And live faithfully in accordance with Your will.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And Your care for Creation  
Overflows to all the earth.  
Grant to us the resolve to care for Creation  
In the place we inhabit and in the time You have given to us.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And You create us to reflect  
The image of God.  
Grant to us that we may see in our neighbour  
A reflection of Your image and so value the lives of all.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And we see the world as it is  
And know that it is not yet the world as You will it to be.  
Grant to us faith that we might see Jesus and follow the One  
Who is the author and pioneer of our salvation.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

AMEN

These weekly prayers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic are shared by Christian churches and organisations across the country.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/weekly-prayers-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic-continue>

## **WORSHIP**

All services start at 11.15.

On 10th October the service will be in Springfield

On 17th October the service will be in Ceres. with a Harvest theme.

On 24th October the service will be in Kemback.

On 30th October our National Giving Day service will be in Springfield.

---

Ceres Kemback and Springfield

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2021

## **Isn't Creation Amazing!**

Readings: Psalm 8

Mark 10: 13 - 16

Have you ever been on a nature walk with children? I have. Many times. So many questions, so eager to learn, so open to new ideas. So amazed by the diversity of creation.

In 2018 the European Christian Environmental Network urged churches to adopt a Time for Creation, a movement which had begun in the Orthodox churches in the late 1980s. So, stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October and with Christians around the world, we dedicate this month to reflection on our often troubled relationship with the Earth. This is the last Sunday of Creation Time this year.

So often in these troubled times for our planet and its people we find ourselves concentrating on all that is going wrong. On the ways in which we are damaging the fragile ecosystems, on the ways in which we are over-using the finite resources, on the inhumane ways in which people treat each other and all around us we hear people blaming each other, blaming politicians, blaming greed and self-interest. In a prayer he wrote for Creation Time, Howard Hudson, a minister in Glasgow, says this:

We can let our troubles, fears and doubts take over and stop looking to You, floundering in the dark rather than walking in the light, and being led and guided by You.

So today I want to ask you, for a wee while, to walk in the light, to turn your thoughts to positive things. And to start you off I want you to take a few seconds to think about one thing in the natural world that makes you rejoice – one thing that lifts your heart.....

Now think of something in our human existence that makes you rejoice – in your family or friends, in something human beings have done or made – something that makes you rejoice within yourself or that makes you glad for the world..... There is always something if we take the time to notice.

The psalmist David had some very dark times in his life, many of them we could say were his own fault. But we also know that at the darkest of times he would turn to God, call out to him from the bottom of the miry pit and ask for help. We also know that there were times when he felt very positive, when, looking up to heaven and all around, he couldn't help but rejoice. That psalm Pat read for us is one of many where he acknowledges the work of God in creation and is overwhelmed by the littleness of humanity. He is amazed that, in all the vastness of creation, God should not only bother with us mere mortals but that he has given us a role to play in caring for everything else.

The well-known hymn 'O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hand hath made' [probably best known as 'How great thou art'] puts us in David's shoes and invites us to rejoice in everything we see and to remember that God is with us in it all, not just today but in all eternity. Not just in the hard times of our lives but also in the good. And when things are good we should rejoice and give thanks.

Very often when we read about Jesus in the New Testament he is being questioned about legal matters, about interpretation of laws and rules and regulations. Today's reading finds Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, to the cross and it follows on from yet another time when the Pharisees were trying to catch him out to justify getting rid of him. This time it is questions about divorce. Even the disciples joined in. but in the middle of all the arguing and questioning some folk in the crowd brought their children forward so that they could see Jesus, maybe so that they could be blessed by this Rabbi, this teacher who really seemed to understand them and care about them. Instead of answering the Pharisees' niggly questions Jesus turns their attention to the children. This is what you need to be like – he tells them. You need to have free and open minds, uncluttered by all the administrivia of everyday living. You need to be open to seeing the wonders of nature around you, to be willing to ask questions about the fascinating things you see and to be ready to believe that there is someone who can help you understand them better.

This past week or so we have seen and heard or read a lot about the young delegates to the Climate Conference in Milan. Many dismiss them as being too young to understand the economics of what they want from the world. Many say they are every bit as selfish as the older generations, wanting everything their way and not willing to compromise. We don't need to agree with everything they say but we must be willing to listen and to learn together because they are inheriting our mistakes as well as our successes and we all want the same thing. We want the world to be better in the future. We want more people to be able to look around them and find things to make them rejoice. We want resources more fairly shared, different cultures acknowledged; different faiths respected. We want the things we have in common to be what drives us rather than the differences.

God created a wonderful planet and gave it to us to steward. God is still at work in creation, reshaping and renewing and moving us forward. It is his purpose that we travel together in unity and that we leave the world a fit place for others to travel in their time.

So see the rainbow and not the rain. See the glorious colours of autumn and not the dead leaves. Hear the laughter of children and the songs of the birds and then, when the dark times come bring all these memories out of your store and rejoice, give thanks and remember that God is steadfast and kind and his love knows no ending. Amen

Elsbeth Smith at Kemback 3<sup>rd</sup> October

## NATIONAL GIVING DAY



For CKS, National Giving Day will be on Sunday 31 October 2021. This will provide people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God.

Money received through this initiative will remain with participating congregations who will choose how to use these gifts. This money may be used to fund specific work, to launch a new project or simply to offset deficits, taking into account the

challenging financial circumstances faced by many of our churches over the last year. Congregations can use the money locally or direct it towards projects at home or overseas, provided that it will be used in line with the charitable objectives of the Church.

Suggestions for activities leading up to National Giving day, and the best way the funds raised can be spent, will be welcome.

## **PRESBYTERY**

The Presbytery Newsletter can be accessed at

<https://mailchi.mp/ce361e5222b0/mission-bulletin-4858110?e=c357946402>

### **Weaving Worship 2021 -2022**

A series of six workshops for local worship teams and those who would like to share in leading worship.  
Participants must be recommended by the Kirk Session. (Further details from the Session Clerk.)

Topics

**Foundation Session 1: Worship is a verb!**

**Foundation Session 2: Weavers of Worship**

**Foundation Session 3: Worship Styles**

**Session 4: Praying Together**

**Session 5: Music in Worship**

**Session 6: Engaging with the Word**

Venue

**Wellesley Church Methil**

**Wednesday evenings:**

**27 October; 10 & 24 November; 12 & 26 January, 9 February**

**7.30 till 9.30**

**The cost of each session is £5 payable on the night.**

