



Ferryhill Parish Church

The Church of Scotland

Pentecost 17

Sunday 20 September 2015

11:00 a.m.



You are very welcome to Ferryhill Parish Church. Please sit wherever you like. If you are visiting then please sign the visitors' book in the foyer. Children are always welcome and the foyer is available during the service should you wish to use it.

Today's worship is led by:

Peter Johnston (Minister)

Lorna Glen (Reader)

Kevin Haggart (Organist)

Peter Cumming (Beadle)

The flowers today have been donated by Archie Young and all the family, remembering Jean with love.



Gathering Song      Sing of the Lord's goodness      CH 157

Call to Worship

Leader:      Friends! Let us draw close to God  
and live, laugh and love!

**All:      Living to the fullest in the life  
we have been granted.  
Laughing with joy at the blessings  
we have been given.  
Loving this day, this place,  
these people around us.**

Leader:      In the name of our living, laughing, loving God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Praise      The God of Abraham praise      CH 162

Welcome and Church Notices

Opening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 the wrong we have done,  
as we forgive those who have wronged 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.

All Age Message    Special Places

Praise                      God is good                                      CH178

Children leave for Sunday Club

Readings                      Genesis, chapter 18, verses 1-15  
    Genesis, chapter 21, verses 1-7

Giving Birth to Laughter

Praise                      Old Abram was blest and Sarai was, too  
    Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
    Tune: Hanover (CH 127)

1.    Old Abram was blest and Sarai was, too,  
       when God called their names and said, "I choose you!"  
       I'll give you descendants like stars up above—  
       too many to count, and a sign of my love."
2.    That old couple laughed at what God might do.  
       Was what they had heard impossibly true?  
       For they had no children to carry their name—  
       yet God promised nations would rise out of them.
3.    God promised to them a life that was new:  
       a new set of names, a new future, too.  
       They faithfully trusted—that husband and wife;  
       soon Sarah and Abraham found a new life.
4.    O God, in your love, a whole nation grew;  
       you called them to be a blessing for you.  
       You sent them, you send us, to be this world's light.  
       Your promise still shines like the stars in the night.

Message                      A People of Laughter

## The Offering

### Offering Praise

Three strangers passing by Mamre      Words: Alan Gaunt

Tune: Sussex Carol (CH 700)

1. Three strangers passing by Mamre  
were humbly welcomed, asked to stay.  
And as they dined beneath a tree,  
— this strangely awesome trinity —  
both Abraham and Sarah knew  
for these the best alone would do.
2. As Sarah listened from the door,  
she heard a promise, heard before,  
that very soon she'd have a boy.  
She laughed and said, 'Shall I have joy?  
Why, both of us are far too old!  
Her secret laugh was sad and cold.
3. The Lord of promise, who had heard,  
said, 'Why did Sarah doubt my word?  
Why did she laugh?' But Sarah said,  
'I did not laugh,' and hung her head;  
The stranger smiled, 'It can't be hid:  
You laughed, oh yes, I know you did.'
4. This Lord of promise comes to us,  
who knows our secret sadnesses;  
our bitter laughs, and deepest fears  
are turned to joy when God appears;  
Love's Trinity, through darkest night,  
will turn our sorrow to delight.

## Prayer of Dedication

*Please remain standing*

God of promise,  
 we bring to you our offering,  
 remembering that we too  
 are a part of your covenant promise.  
 Use the gifts we bring,  
 and use us in the bringing of your sacred laughter,  
 your holy surprises,  
 your wondrous yet-to-be.  
 May we know that in our service  
 and in our belonging  
 within this community,  
 we can bring your Kingdom that step closer.  
 Amen.

## Prayers for Others and Ourselves

Praise

Your hand, O God, has guided

CH 511

## The Blessing

*Please remain standing*

Leader: Love, laughter, living:

**All: it's what God intends for each  
 and everyone of us.**

Leader: Go now to find those moments

**All: of love,  
 of laughter,  
 of living,**

Leader: and do so with the full blessing of the  
 loving, laughing, living God,  
 always by your side.

Sung Amen

## Take Home Ideas

Having spent some time last week reflecting on taking risks and persevering, take time this week to reflect on the trust we place in God to guide us through the smooth and the turbulent times in our personal, work and church life.

Use your finger labyrinth to take a few moments each day to 'walk' through your thoughts, your hopes, your fears and your dreams. May we look to the future, trusting that God is with us and will never abandon us.

Taking risks does not give immediate outcomes; perseverance can be frustrating, but God is with us for the long haul. Are we with God for the long haul, too?





1. **Evening Service:** Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. for an evening service in the Memorial Chapel which will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion.
2. **The Monday Fellowship** will meet tomorrow Monday 21st September at 2 p.m. to be entertained by two lovely gentleman for an afternoon of Doric and music.
3. **Cosy House:** The Cosy House will meet again next Sunday 27th September at 6:30 p.m. in the Foyer. This is open to all Primary 7—Secondary 6 ages.
4. **Care Home Services:** Our next service will be Sunday 27th September at Maryfield East at 6:00 p.m.
5. **The Lunch Club** meets every Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. and anyone over 50 is welcome to come along. This is an ideal opportunity to meet socially and enjoy a lovely 2 course meal together (cost £4) and the helpers are looking forward to seeing you all again.
6. **Quiz Night:** Interested in supporting a Quiz Night being held in our local community? Ferryhill and Ruthrieston Community Council's Annual Quiz Night is to be held on Friday 25th September 2015 at 7.30 p.m. at Polmuir Bowling Club, Polmuir Road. To join in the fun and for further details please refer to the poster on the notice board in the Atrium.
7. **Harvest Envelopes** will be available next week for return at the Harvest Sunday Service on 4 October. Envelopes will also be made available in the coffee shop.
8. **Cairns Counselling Christmas Fundraiser:** Cairns Counselling are hosting a Christmas Floral Demonstration by Rena Cross, on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 p.m. in Queens Cross Church. Tickets cost £10 and include wine and canapés, and can be obtained from Yvonne Haig. Come along and support this worthwhile cause.
9. **Indoor Car Boot Sale:** Thanks to all who helped with the table top sale on the 12th of September. £474.33 was raised in aid of the Manse Appeal Fund.
10. **Instant Neighbour:** The Sainsbury's trolley is in the atrium during the week and the foyer on Sunday and will be available for any donations you make.
11. **Fairtrade Stall:** On sale today – individual chocolate Fairbreak wafers and twin packs of stem ginger cookies and chewy fruit and oat cookies. Treat yourself to a sweet snack with your tea or coffee. Also at the stall you can buy raffle tickets for a hamper of Clean & Fair cleaning products and toiletries. All profits are for church funds.



## This Week's Eco Tip

### **Dinner from the Freezer tonight?**

Planning meals ahead gives you time to let frozen food thaw fully before cooking. This means you don't need to use the microwave to defrost, and cut cooking time, which will save energy. Remember to check manufacturers instructions first.



## Contacts

Please contact the Minister, Rev Peter Johnston, for information about Church Membership, Baptism, or being married in Church, or complete one of the cards available in the Hymn Book and hand it in as you leave.

## Ferryhill Parish Church

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### Minister

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**A Kirk for All  
at Ferryhill**