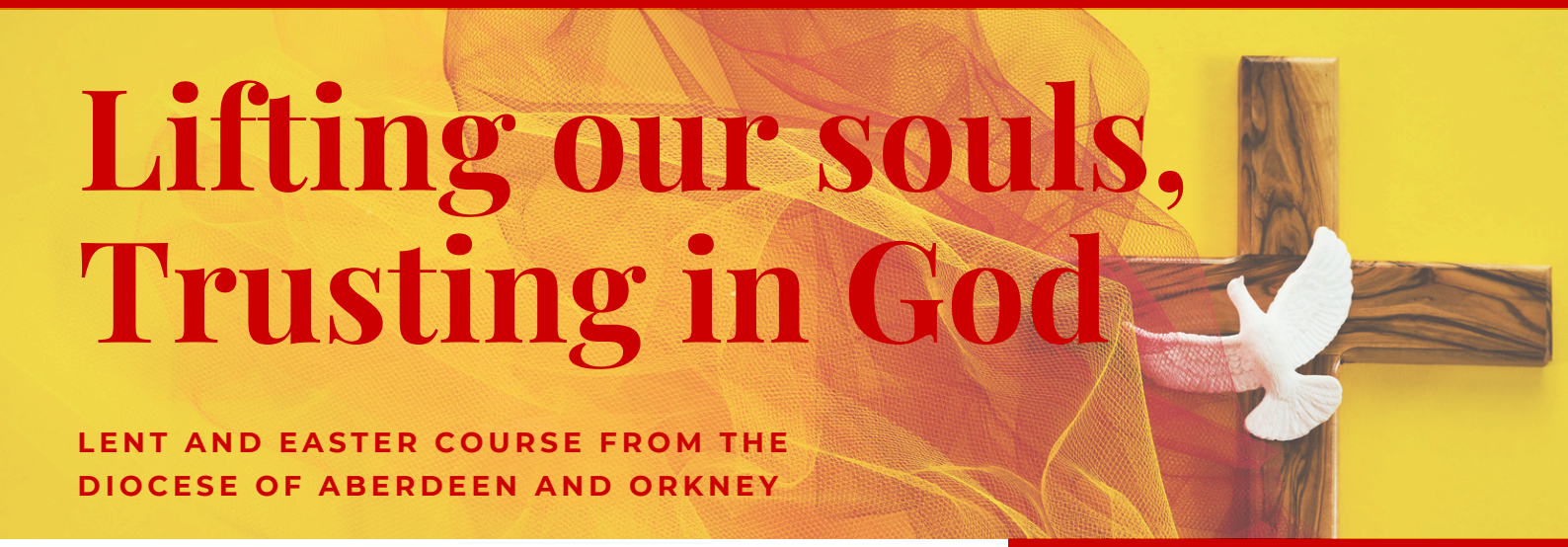
Lifting our souls, Trusting in God



LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

25 O Lord, how manifold are your works! *
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

26 Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, *
creatures both small and great.

27 There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan, *
which you have made for the sport of it.

28 All of them look to you *
to give them their food in due season.

29 You give it to them; they gather it; *
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

30 You hide your face, and they are terrified; *
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.

31 You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; * and so you renew the face of the earth.

32 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; *
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

34 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; *
I will praise my God while I have my being.

35 May these words of mine please him; *
I will rejoice in the Lord.

37 Bless the Lord, O my soul. * Hallelujah!

COLLECT

Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

"When wisdom comes, transformation comes. Wisdom makes the difference between the succeeding man and the failing man."
— Patience Johnson

"The Spirit did everything on the Day of Pentecost and afterwards. It was the Spirit who gave the boldness, the wisdom, the message, and the converting power."
— Andrew Murray

Without Pentecost the Christ-event – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.
— Henri Nouwen

Psalm 104 tells us about the Leviathan. It's described ithe Book of Job and Psalms, the leviathan is an immense, fire-breathing sea serpent or dragon that symbolises primordial chaos, untamable nature, and God's supreme power over creation. In Psalm 104 the Leviathan is not the ancient symbol of chaos and oppostition to God's order, but God's 'pet dragon' (The Message translation). What a wonderful wonderful vision of a perfect God-controlled world of peace and prosperity for all.

Reflecting on Psalm 104, what do you want to praise God for in creation?

Psalm 104: CIV Benedic, anima mea *by Malcolm Guite*

Cast down the mighty and exalt the low,
My God upon whose breath all life is borne,
As on the wind's swift wings, when, sweeping low

You lift the mists and drive the clouds, all drawn
Aloft by flaming ministers. The light
Throughout the cosmos is your veil, withdrawn

To show your glory once, for you were light
Itself made flesh in that transfiguration.
You make the day, and in the tender night

The moon and stars shine as revelation
Of your transcendent beauty, for you shine
In all your works, and breathe through all creation.

In every woven strand of life the line
Of your strong love is drawn and gathered in,
Knotted and crowned in Christ and made divine.

To Listen:

All Creatures of Our God and King, attributed to St Francis of Assisi (paraphrased by William H. Draper)
I Will be Glad in the Lord by Esther Mui

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1