

## **Service lead by Linda “ Congregational Service ” Aug' 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025**

**(Audio MP3 'Scarborough Fair' sung by Aurora 3:26 mins)**

### **(The Welcome)**

*As both Sheila and Ann are away this weekend for a well earned break,  
it falls upon me to conduct this service.*

*This is the first time I've taken a service so I do hope you'll all be especially kind to me.*

*I'm hoping with Steve's help the people on Zoom are able to joining us. Hello Zoomers.*

*Everyone is welcome whether you come often or are newcomers.*

*We are just going to have a sing along of five of our chosen favourite hymns, and in order to give us time to rest our vocal chords in between, we will have some Poems, Prayers and Stories selected and read by members of our congregation.*

*Sorry Zoomers for not asking you to contribute but I hope you will find a hymn or reading that is one of your particular favourites.*

*I hope you will all sing up, listen to the readings and enjoy!*

### **(Chalice Lighting & Opening Prayer)**

*And now, as is our custom, I'll begin this time of words, and song by lighting our chalice candle as a symbol of our free religious faith.*

### **(Light Candle)**

*The chalice prayer I've chosen is*

**“Heritage of Light” by Cliff Reed**

*We light this chalice  
to celebrate our heritage of light:  
the light of science and of art;  
the light of story and of poem;  
the light of nature and of reason;  
the inner light of spirit and of truth.*

### **(My Opening Words)**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> of August was the pagan festival of Lammas; the festival to celebrate the first harvest and gathering of the new grain.*

*The first sheaf of corn was hung over the fireplace in the home and would be ploughed into the ground in the following spring.*

*The last sheaf cut would be kept for making corn dollies.*

*\*Our opening music was the traditional song Scarborough Fair sung by Aurora\**

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*Scarborough Fair was a historic trading market held each August and September in Scarborough, North Yorkshire it was established by Royal Charter in 1253 by King Henry III.*

*It was a major commercial event attracting merchants from across Europe.*

*The fair was a significant event for merchants to trade goods;*

*and merchants came from as far away as the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey).*

*The fair typically ran for 45 days, starting on 15<sup>th</sup> August (Assumption Day)*

*and ending on 29<sup>th</sup> September (Michaelmas Day).*

*The fair eventually declined. The last traditional one being held in 1788.*

### **(Opening Hymn)**

*The first hymn is a firm favourite of most of us*

*Hymn number 24 in the purple hymn book*

*Aptly called '**Come Sing a Song with Me**' Words by Carolyn McDade*

*and the music is called "A Rose in Winter"*

*the words will appear on screen. Stand if you're able*

### **(First Readings (1) :~ )**

#### **(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

*Linda ~ I've chosen the first reading – It's a prayer by Cliff Reed based on a quote from a book I've read called 'A Hat Full of Sky' written by Terry Pratchett and the quote reads: "I'm made up of the memories of my parents and grandparents, all my ancestors" Cliff Reed's called it 'What Babies Are Made Of'*

#### **(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)**

*Caroline ~ will now read 'The Hayloft' by Robert Louis Stevenson*

### **(Second Hymn)**

*Our second hymn is by Lyanne Mitchell and the music is a traditional Scottish melody called 'Leaving of Lismore'.*

*Hymn number 147 in the purple hymn book the words will appear on screen.*

*It's called '**Spirit of Earth, Root, Stone and Tree**'*

*Stand if you're able*

### **(Second Readings (2):~ )**

#### **(3<sup>rd</sup> Reading)**

*Kathy ~ Kathy will now read a poem chosen by Joan Frost who, due to ill health is unable to attend church in person.*

***"The Owl and The Pussycat"***

**(4<sup>th</sup> Reading)**

*Christine ~ Now Christine is going to read us a piece from a poem by William Wordsworth.*

**(Third Hymn)**

*Our third Hymn is number 167 in the purple hymn book*

*Words and music by Don Besig.*

*This is a firm favourite of many of us. And was Thelma's favourite.*

*Called 'There is a Place I Call My Own'*

*Stand if you're able*

**(Third Readings (2) :~)**

**(5<sup>th</sup> Reading)**

*Margaret will now read us a poem by Rumi she has chosen called "The Guest House".*

**(6<sup>th</sup> Reading)**

*Stephen is going to read us a poem by Lauren Ding-Edwards called "The Mountain".*

**(MP4 Reflective Video 'Into the Heart of Love' 3:43 mins)**

*We'll now have a break with time for reflection with a colourful video of Zaharia Grace singing 'Into the Heart of Love'.*

**(Forth Hymn)**

*This may be new to most of us but was chosen as a special favourite by a regular member of our congregation.*

*It was written by William Henry Monk who also wrote "Abide With Me"*

*Hymn number 42 in the green hymn book*

*'A Dream of Widening Love'*

*Stand if you're able*

**(Last Readings :~)**

**(7<sup>th</sup> Reading)**

*Linda I have another prayer that I'd like to share with you by Cliff Reed a prolific Unitarian writer.*

*It's called 'One Direction'*

**(Last Hymn)**

*Our last hymn is Hymn number 226 in the green hymn book 'Song of Peace'  
Sung to the tune called 'Finlandia' by Sibelius  
the Lyrics were written in 1934 by Lloyd Stone.*

*It is also called 'This is My Song'*

*A third verse was added in 1964 written by Georgia Harkness.*

*Unfortunately it doesn't appear in the hymn book.*

*And I'd like to read the verse to you before we sing the hymn:*

*May truth and freedom come to every nation*

*May peace abound where strife has raged so long;*

*That each may seek to love and build together;*

*A World united, righting every wrong.*

*A World united in it's love for freedom,*

*Proclaiming peace together in one song.*

**(Closing Words & Prayers)**

*The closing prayer is a recasting of words by*

*Charles Dickens' written in 1844 as his tribute to the Revd. Edward Tagart.*

*May our religion have sympathy*

*for people of every creed*

*and venture to pass judgement on none.*

*May the lessons of Divine Truth*

*sink into our hearts and not be forgotten in our practice.*

**( Extinguishing of the Chalice candle followed by the closing video and our notices )**

**(Extinguish Candle)**

*The closing video is the song **"I Am The Earth"** It's just the lyrics on a green screen,  
with a children's choir singing. It was written in 2007 by Glyn Lehmann for the  
International Year of Planet Earth 2008.*

*It has been immensely popular worldwide with children's choirs.*

*Sung in two parts, one part being the voice of the Earth and the other that of the  
children of the Earth.*

*After this video and the notices (which I will read out, I was going to ask Gill to read  
them, but she has volunteered to be in the kitchen after the service!)*

*Thanks to Gill you'll all be welcome to join us for tea and coffee in the hall.*

*\* Please also try to donate any small amount you can to our offertory - thank you.*

**(MP4 Closing Video "I Am The Earth" by Glyn Lehmann 3:44 mins)**

