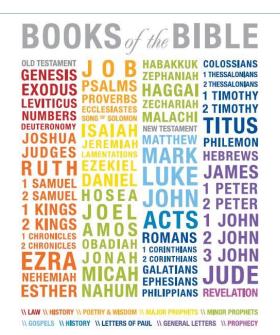


Stornoway Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland part of a global church with a glorious heritage

## December 2017 Newsletter



## WELCOME

### LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship-11.00am

Evening Worship—6.30pm

### PRAYER MEETING

Thursday-7.30pm



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### WORD FROM THE MANSE

Dear congregation,

At the manse we have just enjoyed our Thanksgiving meal, an annual feast full of delicious American dishes such as turkey, candied yams, and green bean casserole, followed by pumpkin pie and other desserts. If you were to meet any American towards the end of November then Thanksgiving will not be far from their minds. I truly think that it is one of my favourite parts of American culture. Not much is better than sitting around a table with family and friends enjoying a banquet with good fellowship.

But one thing is needful to remember: if we are celebrating a Thanksgiving dinner, to whom are we giving thanks? Of course the answer is obvious to us in the church – to God. We already give thanks for our food each day through prayer, grateful that God has provided us our daily bread. We know that every good and perfect gift is from Him, as both Scripture and experience teach. Surely complaints should be far from us because our tables are a lot fuller than many by the providence of God.

Millions of Americans will have celebrated Thanksgiving just as we have, with the same types of food as we have enjoyed, yet how many will give thanks to the bountiful God for His gracious provisions? The original intention of the day was to return thanks to God. One of the old Thanksgiving proclamations by Abraham Lincoln in 1863 notes the following about many national blessings: "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."

Another significant event occurred on the same day as our feast, this time closer to home. The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, delivered his budget to Parliament. In his speech Hammond pledged millions to certain things and promised investments of billions to others. As one of the largest economies in the world the annual budget speech would be an apt opportunity to give public thanks to God for his goodness to us, even in the midst of much transgression. Alas, that is not the practice! How long can we continue to enjoy the Lord's gifts without giving Him service?

How should we respond? Let us be sure that we cultivate within us a thankful heart. When others say to us, "You should be proud of that," or, "You're lucky," or something like that, why not respond, "Well, God has been good"? Is that not a very simple way to turn a conversation around to talk about the most important thing in our lives? I wonder how many evangelistic opportunities such responses could open up.

In Christ,

#### Stephen

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THE HOLY BIBLE

The 66 books of the Bible from the Holy Scriptures. They make up one book, for God is the author of it. The following rhymed couplets were first published around 140 years ago, and are well worth memorising.

In **Genesis** the world was made by God's creative hand,

In **Exodus** the Hebrews marched to God's promised land.

Leviticus contains the law—holy and just and good.

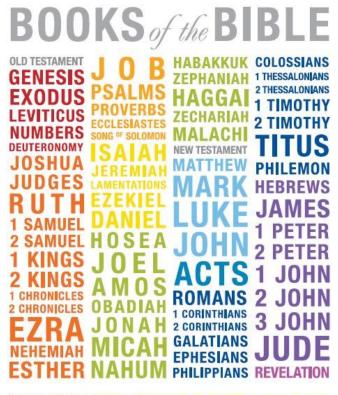
Numbers records the tribes enrolled-all sons of Abraham's blood.

Moses in **Deuteronomy** recounts God's mighty deeds. Brave Joshua to Canaan's land the host of Israel leads. In Judges their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite. But **Ruth** records the faith of one well-pleasing in His sight. In 1st and 2nd Samuel of Jesse's son we read: Ten tribes in 1st and 2nd Kings revolted from his seed. In 1st and 2nd Chronicles see Judah captive made, But Ezra leads a remnant back by princely Cyrus' aid. The broken walls of Salem Nehemiah builds again, While **Esther** saves her people from the plots of wicked men. In **Job** we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod. And David's **Psalms** are precious songs to every child of God. The **Proverbs** like a goodly string of choicest pearls appear, Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain are all things here. The mystic **Song of Solomon** exalts sweet Sharon's rose, Whilst Christ the Saviour and the King the rapt Isaiah shows. The warning Jeremiah gives apostate Israel scorns, His plaintive Lamentations sore their awful downfall mourns

Ezekiel in wondrous words speaks dazzling mysteries,While kings and empires yet to come Daniel in vision sees.Of judgement and of mercy great Hosea loves to tell;Joel describes the blessed day when God with man shall

dwell.

While gathering fruit of sycamore Amos received his call,
Next Obadiah prophesies of Edom's final fall.
Jonah entombed within a fish and buried 'neath the sea,
Is type of Jesus Christ our Lord, greater than Jonah He!
Micah pronounces Judah lost; lost, but again restored;
Nahum declares on Nineveh just judgement shall be poured.
A view of Chaldea's coming doom Habakkuk's visions give;
Next Zephaniah warns the Jews to turn, repent and live.
Haggai wrote to those who saw the temple built again,
And Zechariah prophesied of Christ's triumphant reign.
Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord;
It's final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord.



\\ LAW \\ HISTORY \\ POETRY & WISDOM \\ MAJOR PROPHETS \\ MINOR PROPHETS \\ GOSPELS \\ HISTORY \\ LETTERS OF PAUL \\ GENERAL LETTERS \\ PROPHECY



# In Matthew, Mark and Luke and John, the holy Gospels tell How Jesus lived and died and rose, to save our souls from hell. Acts proves how God th'Apostles owned with signs in every place; And Paul in **Romans** teaches us how man is saved by grace. Two letters sent to Corinth's church instruct, reprove, exhort: 'The just shall live by faith alone,' is in **Galatians** taught. Ephesians and Philippians tell what Christians ought to be; Colossians bids us live to God and for eternity. In **Thessalonians** we are taught the Lord will come from heaven; In **Timothy**, and **Titus** too, a bishop's rule is given. Philemon back receives again Onesimus the slave; Hebrews explains the ancient types which God by Moses gave. James tells how, without holiness, faith is but vain and dead; And **Peter's letters** point the way in which the saints are led. John in his letters, three in all, on love delights to dwell, While Jude gives warnings, clear and strong, of judgment, wrath and hell. The **Revelation** prophesies of that tremendous day

When Christ, and Christ alone, shall be the trembling sinner's stay.



**Trinitarian Bible Society** 

Read oft the Scriptures, Word so pure, if you would blessed be; for of them Christ the Lord has said, 'They testify of me.'

