

## MORNING SERVICE

22 February 2009, Kilcalmonell, Killean & Kilchenzie

*Last Sunday after Christmas*

*preacher: Rev Martin Grashoff*

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### Welcome & Intimations

**Opening Hymn** : 'Look forward in faith' (CH 237)

**Children's Talk**

**Children's Hymn** : 'For the beauty of the earth' (CH 181)

### Prayer & Lord's Prayer

### The story of Noah

Today we will conclude reading through the opening chapters of the Bible by listening to the story of Noah. In the Bible that takes four chapters, which is a bit much to read. Instead we will hear a narration written by Nico ter Linden, one of my Dutch colleagues, who tells the story using passages from the Bible and adding explanation to it. So it is a kind of reading and sermon in one. I will read the passages from the Bible and Ann/Maggie will read the story as told by Ter Linden.

NOTE: for reasons of copyright this story cannot be published here, but the book is still on sale through various websites, as are the other two volumes of this series which were translated into English. (The Dutch original, titled *Het verhaal gaat...*, has six volumes – there's still a job to be finished on this side of the Northsea.) The part we read – and slightly 'scotticized' – is:  
Nico ter Linden, *The story goes...* 1: The stories of the Torah. Translated by John Bowden; London: SCM Press, 1999, p31-37

### On baptism

Going through the waters of death and destruction to find the wells of living water. That is a very biblical image. As life always comes with God's goodness and evil both included, in the Bible water always has this double meaning of drowning and reviving. And that is the connection with the water of baptism.

What our lives will be in the future, or the lives of our children, we don't know. We do know there is a whole lot that can and will threaten our lives. The big things, like natural disasters, wars, poverty or famine, and the smaller things like illness, crime, unemployment, fights, abuse and so on. After all, the smaller things are just as huge as the global problems if they really hit you.

Baptism is a symbol, a sign from God, that all that threatens the good life he wishes for each of us will mnever win – in the end. In baptism we symbolically go *through* the water to affirm our faith that we *will* live, thanks to the grace of God. As Noah was saved in his ark, as the people of Israel were saved through the See of Reeds, as

Jesus arose as God's son from the water of the river Jordan, so we will have God on our side throughout our lifetime, in good days and bad days, for better and worse, until we will live forever.

**Hymn** : "Tis winter now' (CH 234)

**Offering brought forward**

**Prayer of Intercession**

*(In Killean & Kilchenzie only:)*

**Statement**

**Affirmation**

**Prayer**

**Baptism**

**Blessing** : 'The Lord bless you and keep you' (CH 796)

**Promise**

**Commitment of congregation**

**Children's welcome**

**Prayer**

*(In both churches:)*

**Closing Hymn** : 'Christ is our light' (CH 336 – *Cln: a capella*)

**Blessing**

*(In Killean & Kilchenzie only:)*

**After the blessing** : parents, godparents & child stand beside the font to be congratulated by the parish