

**Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost – 21 June 2020**

***The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Rev Dr Steve Taylor, Principal of the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership in Dunedin, New Zealand, for his thoughts on the third Sunday after Pentecost.***

*Approach to God (using Genesis 21 and the question of Who is God?)*

Hearing God, Help us hear what You hear  
Speaking God, Help us receive what You say  
Eye-opening God, Help us see what You see

*Thanksgiving (drawing on Matthew 10:29-31)*

God who cares  
Watching every sparrow  
Counts every hair on every head  
Names every refugee in every camp  
We gather knowing You are Watching us  
Counting us  
Naming us  
With that care, aware of Your attention  
We express our thanks

*Confession (using Genesis 21 and Romans 6)*

God, in every other,  
If we're honest,  
We see ourselves more clearly –  
Sometimes our warmth,  
Our welcome, our hospitality, our inclusion  
And for this we give You thanks, loving God

God, in every other,  
If we're honest,  
We sometimes see ourselves more clearly –  
Our coldness  
Toward those different  
And in this we confess our sin,  
Our sense of superiority,  
Our desire for monochrome identity,  
those like us  
God  
Help us accept Your welcome of us  
And of every other,  
In one shared body, as forgiven, baptised children.

*Prayers of Intercession from Church of Scotland website June 2014*

**Let us pray.** Eternal God, You give to us this day, and all the hours within it,  
You give to us this worship, and all the music within it,  
You give to us these words, and all the meaning they contain,  
You give to us our minds, and all our capacity to understand,  
You give to us our eyes, and all our capacity to see.

You give to us our ears, and all our capacity to listen.

Grant us grateful lives to respond to what we hear and see and feel and think, that through what we share today, we may begin to find revealed to us Your presence, Your power, Your joy, Your delight.

Thank you, giving God, for all you give to us and bless us with.

May we use these gifts of yours with faith.

Almighty God, though rarely we understand,

And often we miss,

And sometimes we resent

Yet still you break into our world,

Unshakeable in Your faithfulness,

Undimmed in Your hope

Relentless in Your love.

Battering down our stubborn hearts and wills,

Taking sometimes gently, sometimes roughly, our poorly shaped thoughts and prayers for ourselves and for others,

And bending, turning, guiding them into something that we can apprehend

And see how far we were from your will,

And how limited we were in our interceding.

We pray for ourselves and for those whose lives are intertwined with ours:

For those facing the brightness of new beginning,

And the darkness of an ending;

For those who welcome a new birth, a new relationship, a new job,

And those who say farewell to a loved one, a long cherished dream, a shattered hope.

We pray for those whose lives have been brightened by good news and healing,

And those whose days are dim with pain or hurt or fear.

We pray for those whose fortunes prosper, whose homes are warm, whose tables are provided for,

And for those who struggle to make ends meet, who have no shelter or kindness, and who this day will go hungry for food, for kindness, for love.

We pray for the faithful generations, gone before, whose faith has shaped and blessed us.

Who picked up their crosses and followed You in faith.

Help us today to do what is given to us to pass on a living faith to generations to come, showing service of others as privilege, and love of all a joy.

Bless your servant Elizabeth our Queen,

Rule the hearts and minds of those entrusted with power in our country, and our community, that those who are called to rule may remember to serve, and those who are called to shape our laws, our education, our economy

And those who are called to provide for our health, our happiness and our entertainment, may bring light and gentleness, courage and colour to the lives of all your people.

We pray for Your Church, here and everywhere.

May she be an example of open commitment,

*(Space for your own particular prayers)*

A people of welcome, tolerance and unembarrassed faith, gathering in and sending out, sheltering and commissioning,

Giving generously, and receiving gratefully,

That the good news of your Kingdom of sacrificial love might heal, and help and hold the world,

Until all are blessed by the glory of the Lord,

And transformed by the power of His broken and resurrected presence.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen