

Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 28 June 2020

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Rev MaryAnn Rennie, Minister of the Abbey Church of Dunfermline, for her thoughts on the fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

Approach

God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God present of Jesus, God present in the activity of Your people, You are the God of invitation.

Your invitation given to Abraham called him to follow trusting in the promises that You offered. Promises of a relationship that would build a community willing to share in the care of Your creation.

Jesus is your invitation. An invitation into a relationship with You, where we recognise the value of those we share the world with; where we see You and greet You, in the hands and voices of others. The Good News fills our imaginations with the hope of living as You would have us live, welcoming the stranger, caring for the outcast, healing those who struggle with life, bring new life where the dust of devastation has led to death.

Through the Holy Spirit, Your invitation sounds in least expected moments and in the ordinary tasks of our days. We are Your creation, and in our turning to You we trust You with our lives, believing that with Your presence our world can be transformed to offer signs of the kingdom of heaven. Amen

Thanksgiving

God of salvation, we are surprised to discover Your desire to have us as Your people; we are surprised by the freedoms You have bestowed upon us; and from our surprise we turn in thankfulness to praise You for Your trust in the choices we will make.

We are thankful for our freedom; the people who inspire us with the story of faith they tell; the gift of living as a fellowship offering love to the community.

Through Your grace, may we be inspired to live as those who choose Your path of light that the darkness of our fears and doubts may be dispelled by Christ's presence. Amen

Confession

Comforter draw near, for You have waited and watched, as we have stumbled through the tasks of life.

Our ears have not been open to the sound of Your gentleness, and so with frustration and anger we have turned on those we love and cherish, and brought hurt and division to life.

Our eyes have not noticed the beauty of our surroundings, and in resentment of being restrained from living, we have played our part in the changing pattern of creation, forgetting to steward all You have made.

In prayer, we remember You invite us to choose between the path of darkness and the path of light, and laying our sorrow and failure on the ground we long for Your forgiveness to call us towards life with You.

We wait to be reshaped by the fire of Your Holy Spirit, as new vigour spurs us to walk with You.

Silence

God's gift of eternal life has been given in Jesus Christ, who offers us forgiveness from our sins, and welcomes us to the way of holiness. Amen

Prayers of the people (Note:- We are not yet back in our worship spaces, but I decided to leave the prayers as MaryAnn Rennie intended and invite you in your mind's eye, to wander round the sanctuary and use the prayers below. Matthew)

If we are back in our worship spaces (and depending on the size of congregation and the space available), it might be good to make a pilgrimage around the building, offering a prayer pilgrimage. If not back in the church, perhaps there are ways of sharing pictures of the spaces or items that speak of the pilgrimage of faith in your community.

Font

In the beginning You, Creator of the world, pushed aside the water to bring forth life. We remember all those this day who will bring new life to our world.

We pray for those giving birth, and sorrow with those for whom the gift of a child is a deep held longing. We give thanks for those birthing new inventions that will change the patterns of our world and understanding.

We long for the birthing of respect that creates a world where all are valued, no matter creed, or gender, or age, or ability, and loved because You loved us first.

Communion table

Gathered round a table with those You were closest to, You, Friend of the world, pushed aside tradition to allow God's presence to be seen in the ordinary, everyday act of living.

We remember all those ordinary people who have allowed us to meet God alive within them. People who have inspired us with their storytelling; their care in the times when life is rough; their healing balm that has healed our wounds.

May we allow You to challenge our traditions so that You may be met in the ordinary acts of kindness and hospitality You invite us to.

A stained glass window

From a hilltop, You wove the beauty of God through the ears of those who were listening. Our world aches and groans with our carelessness, and the beauty of all You have made can be lost in the fog of human noise and manufacturing.

Reawaken our senses with the light, colour and sound of creation.

Show us the selfishness of wastefulness, as it eats away not just at the natural world but at the human world. Change our patterns so that hunger, drought and famine become ancient stories rather than daily news.

The door

On the day of Pentecost, You, Holy Spirit, blazed through the disciples, calling them to new tasks and expecting them to bring the challenge of Christ's presence to the world.

When we burst through these doors this morning, give us the words that challenge governments and community leaders with the truth or responsibility; give us the language that allows people of all ages to hear You speak to them; strengthen our resolve to live as Your people, in Christ's name. Amen