

Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website

This material was written before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Worship leaders can use the most up-to-date sources of information and take into account the experience of their communities for creating appropriate worship at this time.

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Thomas Sutcliffe, divinity graduate of New College, Edinburgh, for his thoughts on the fifth Sunday after Pentecost.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 5 July 2020

Prayers

To some extent an attempt has been made to select prayers which resonate with the themes and ideas discussed in this material as a whole and the comments made about them. The prayers have been quoted directly from the sources in which they were found and in the case of the prayer of intercession, depending when and what time of day it is used, it may need some adaptation, though the prayers given are only suggestions.

Approach to God O God, suffer us not this day to draw near unto Thee with our lips only, whilst our hearts are far from Thee. Keep us from offering Thee a cold and unmeaning service; and make us, we entreat Thee, so deeply to feel our weakness, our ignorance, our sinfulness, and all our need, that we may come with earnest hearts to Thy throne of grace. (1)

Thanksgiving Accept, O Lord God, our Father, the sacrifices of our Thanksgiving; this, of praise, for Thy great mercies already afforded to us; and this, of prayer, for the continuance and enlargement of them; this, of penitence for such only recompense as our sinful nature can endeavour; and this, of the love of our hearts, as the only gift Thou dost ask or desire; and all these, through the all-holy and atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ Thy Son our Saviour. (John Donne, adapted) (2)

Confession O Lord, who hast mercy upon all, take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of Thy Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore Thee, a heart to delight in Thee, to follow and to enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. (St. Ambrose) (3)

Intercession Almighty Father, who covers the earth in Your divine mercy with a curtain of darkness so that all who are weary may rest, grant us all to rest in You this night. Let Your grace comfort and support all who are to spend it in sorrow, in loneliness, suffering or in fear.

We commend ourselves into Your hands, together with all who are dear to us. Strengthen and confirm Your faithful people; stir up the careless, relieve the sick, give peace to the dying, that Your holy name may be glorified in Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. (H. Stobart) (4)

Blessing Bless all who worship You, almighty God, from the rising of the sun to its setting: from Your goodness enrich us, by Your love inspire us, by Your spirit guide us, by Your power protect us, in Your mercy receive us, now and always. (Ancient Collect) (5)

[1] Daily Prayers: for the Quiet Time, ed. Linda H. Edwards (Publisher unknown, 1993)

[2] A Diary of Prayer, ed. Elizabeth Goudge, (Hodder and Stoughton, London: 1966.) p.195

[3] Ibid, p.66

[4] The Downside Prayerbook, ed. David Foster OSB, (Burns & Oates, London: 1999, paperback edition 2005.) p.41

[5] Ibid, p.85