

Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – 12th July 2020

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Rev Nigel Robb, Presbytery Clerk of St Andrews Presbytery, for his thoughts on the sixth Sunday after Pentecost.

This material was written before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please add your own prayers to reflect the current situation across the world.

Approach God of grace and love, we rely on Your love extended to us in all ways and at all times, extravagantly and with generosity.

We live day by day knowing that Your care and concern is poured out for us in Your provision for our needs and beyond our imagining.

You entrust us with the gift of the good news of the Gospel and invite us to be partners in the sharing of the message of grace.

Day by day we realise the many gifts lavished upon us. We come to You to acknowledge and praise You for all Your goodness to us.

Confession Merciful God, we often appear to be choked by greed and selfishness.

We indulge ourselves and ignore the needs of others.

We are quick to protect what we believe is our own and forget to share the bounty You have so generously provided for us.

We have ignored the opportunities for bringing the love You have shown to our neighbours and those in need

We are restricted in our spiritual growth by the power of selfishness and indulgence which take root in our lives.

We know we are in need of mercy, care and compassion and seek Your message of forgiveness and restoration.

Petition Source of life and hope make us aware of our opportunities for witness and service, even in unlikely places.

Focus our attention on our responsibilities, and not on the impact of what we are doing as Your disciples.

Take from us the desire for superficial success and strengthen our resolve to be faithful and responsive to the message of Your inclusive love so demonstrated in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Thanksgiving O God of grace and glory, we give you thank for the rhythm of the seasons and the constant provision for our needs in life.

We are grateful for the commitment of those who look after our quality of life, through food production, health care and civic security.

We are aware of the injustices and ill division of wealth in our world, and are mindful of the message of those who challenge our life style and comfortable way of living.

We know we do not deserve the mercy and love You have shown to us all, day by day, in countless ways.

May we treasure your Word and its message and be more and more aware of our responsibility as disciples in gratitude to You for Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercession God of compassion we pray for the many who are oppressed by crushing political and economic circumstances.

Those persecuted on grounds of faith or ethnicity or background.

Families torn apart by age-old feuds, petty tensions, ill-founded jealousies and destructive attitudes based on concepts of exclusion, privilege and prejudice.

The men and women ground down by lack of food and opportunities of inclusion.

The children oppressed by discrimination and disadvantage, lack of resources and failures of education. The downtrodden and those seen as unable to make a positive contribution to the life of the world.

Empower, encourage and endorse the disciples of Jesus who try to address the needs of the isolated and lonely, often at enormous personal cost.

The concerned workers who day by day bring food and shelter, care and compassion to the hungry and the homeless.

The missionaries in the world of business and economics who try to overturn the status quo and bring health and healing in an environment alien to the Gospel.

Those who hear the world's poorest cry out for justice and mercy and respond without question or analysis of impact.

The generous who see gifts always as opportunities for sharing their good fortune.

The intrepid who take food and water to those who are ungrateful and resistant to kindness and thoughtfulness.

The faithful, who day by day take time to pray and listen attentively to the Word.

The fighters for justice who have courage and conviction and who try to change the mind-set of exclusion and condemnation.

Those unafraid of persecution, personal disadvantage and power in the world and who dare to question and speak the truth when it would be much easier to keep silent.

The sick in mind, body and spirit, the dying, and those who care for them, that they may always be aware of the presence of Your spirit among them and in their daily lives.

Those for whom the proclamation of the Gospel is a privilege, but not one without cost and personal sacrifice.

For all whose lives, however apparently insignificant and lacking in prestige and power, are attempting to be faithful to the Gospel, in Jesus' name, because they are confident in the inclusive love and mercy You have demonstrated in and through Jesus.

In whose name we pray. Amen