

Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – 26th July 2020

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Rev Jonathan Fleming, Minister of Cumbrae with Largs St John's, for his thoughts on the eighth 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.

Prayer of adoration and confession

Gracious, Loving God,
We come this day to worship and praise Your holy name.
We gather with thanksgiving on our lips and love in our hearts to sing to Your glory;
to be touched and inspired by Your word;
to dwell in Your house in unity.

Lord, forgive the times when we choose not to look...
Not to look out for those in need.
Not to look for glimpses of Your glory.
Not to look for opportunities to share Your good news with others.
Forgive us, Lord.

Open our eyes to You, O God...
May Your Holy Spirit reinvigorate us.
May we rub our eyes and focus on what You call us to do this day and every day.
Open our eyes, open our hearts, open our mouths and open our minds we pray, Amen

Prayers of intercession

Lord Jesus Christ,
Words cannot express how thankful we are that You consider us to be Your children;
Your treasure,
Your pearl beyond all price.

Words cannot express how grateful we are that nothing:
Angels, demons, death, life...
nothing can separate us from Your love!

Lord, we pray this day for all who are yet to hear this news.
May You continue to sustain all who seek to make You known across our world.
Be with missionaries,
Bible translators, children and family workers, chaplains, ministers, preachers and pastors.
Be in conversations, Bible studies, Alpha courses, Christianity Explored and Emmaus courses.

Be in high churches, café churches, messy churches, house groups and cathedrals. Be in all that opens people's eyes to You, Your love and Your call.

God of love and compassion,
We pray for all who seek to make a difference in the lives of others.
Be with carers and counsellors,
medics and mediators,
Be with those with listening ears and those with caring hands,
Be in all that opens people's eyes to You, Your love and Your call.
God of justice and peace,
We pray for all who seek to challenge injustices and stand up for what is right.
Be with the politician and the protester,

The activist and the pacifist,
The vocal and the silent.
Be in all that opens people's eyes to You,
Your love and Your call.

Hear us and help us to see You this day, we pray. Amen

Reflection from Spill The Beans worship team.

A tiny shard of coloured glass
through which to view the kingdom:
each shard
lending a different colour,
a different perspective.

Seeds that grow into sheltering trees,
yeast that ferments and leavens the dough,
treasure and pearls and nets,
all worth ditching everything else in order to secure.

So many ways of describing the indescribable,
putting the pieces together
still doesn't produce a whole
but perhaps the knowledge
of such a multi-layered phenomenon
will serve to remind us
of the enormity
and the mystery
of the Kingdom of God.

*I received this from the wife of the Bishop of Barisal in Bangladsh and wanted to share I with you.
Matthew*

Prayer for a Pandemic (Collected from <https://www.epworth.com/covid-19/prayer-resources>)

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.
Amen.