

Prayers from the Church of Scotland Website

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – 2nd August 2020

The Faith Nurture Forum would like to thank Rev Jock Stein, retired Minister, formerly of Tulliallan and Kincardine, for his thoughts on the ninth 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

Lord God, this coming to worship is serious business. The world is out of joint, and our lives are out of joint. Generally we do our best, but You see what we are really like. Sometimes we know very well we have gone wrong, sometimes we just know that Your holiness is beyond us. And yet Your compassion is over all You have made.

Have mercy on us. Forgive what is wrong, strengthen what is right, and guide us in the right way, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord God, this coming to worship is glorious business. All creation is made for Your glory, and we voice that now. Your Spirit plants hints of glory in our hearts, and we delight to offer You our praise and worship. Help us in our song to give You honour, in our silence to wait for You to speak, through Jesus Christ, Your living word.

Lord God, this coming to worship is hopeful business. We come with our concerns and our fears, with people on our hearts, stalked by troubles and worries. Open Your generous hand, to satisfy our desire, to renew our faith that You are kind, and close to all who call upon You, as we do, trusting in Jesus who bears our burdens, and carries our sorrows.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Thanksgiving

It is good, Lord God, for us to live with thankful hearts. But now we voice our thanks, together as Your praising people. We sit pew-bound, but our hands and hearts are lifted in reverence and awe, our throats are pulsing with Your praise, our eyes are wide open to the wonder of who You are.

Thank You, God, for giving us what we need to live in this world – food, shelter, conversation, family, friendship, warmth, purpose. Thank You for giving us a gospel worth sharing with others. Thank You for the hope of a life which is not snuffed out by death. Thank You for the sciences with which we explore the universe, and for the arts which help us to appreciate its wonder.

Thank you, God, for the challenging times, when we have had to struggle through alone, when we have had to keep listening for Your voice a long time, when we have had to come to terms with who we really are. Thank You for all who have helped us along life's journey, not least those lost to our earthly sight, who share the splendour and joy of heaven.

Thank You God, for the gift of Jesus, the gift of the Spirit, the gift of faith. Amen

Intercession Hear us now as we pray for others in the name of Christ:

For those who are bowed down, that God may lift them up.

For those who are hungry, that they find food and the nourishment they need.

For those who choke on bad air or water, that the policy and practice of governments and others in charge may change.

For those who are sick, and those in the caring professions.

For those who call for help, that they find You near at hand.

For those who cannot find paid work, and those who take decisions which affect patterns of work.

For those who struggle with God, that they find themselves, and find God.

For those enduring violence, that they find relief, and the blessing of peace.

For the Middle East and its peoples, that truth may prevail over lies, and peace over warfare.

God, whose Son endured shame and torture, and the violence of those who misunderstood Your will, work a wonder in the hearts of angry people, that hatred may turn to gentleness, bitterness to calm, and fear to faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen