

Joint Call to Prayer: Sunday, 7pm 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2021

In a joint message, church leaders in Scotland said:

“We live in a world in which questions of identity are much to the fore. The questions range from that of personal identity to those of communal identity. Such questions are important and from our understanding of who we are there will follow, in large measure, the pattern of how we engage with others.

“In similar fashion, the way in which we understand the nature of God will enable us to better understand the pattern of how God engages with us. Scripture speaks of the identity of God when it affirms: ‘God is love’. We understand this to be the case because: ‘God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him.’ (1 John 4: 7-21) We see something of the identity of God revealed in the self-giving of God. In the self-giving of God, we see revealed the truth that: ‘God is love’. In the light of our understanding of this truth, there will follow, in large measure, the pattern of how we engage with others.”

We pray:

God whose name is Love,  
We see your love revealed  
In the giving of your Son.  
May we embrace the offer of your love  
And live in response to your generosity.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose name is Love,  
We see your love revealed  
In the One who shares in our humanity and who suffers on our behalf.  
May we live as those who share a common humanity  
And in the suffering of the world.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose name is Love,  
We see your love revealed  
In the community of your people and in all who are made in your image.  
May we share in the life of your people  
And recognise your image in the life of others.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose name is Love,  
We see your love revealed among us  
In the places where love is known and fear is cast out.  
May fear be cast out and love be known  
In the community we share and in the spaces we shape.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

God whose name is Love,  
We see your love revealed among us  
In the resurrection of your Son and in the promise of your Spirit.  
May we live as those who share in the hope of the resurrection  
And in the life of your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.