

St. John's and St. Columba's Strathpray

Let us pray for one another and for the world ...

Sunday October 17th

'God's blessing inside the city, God's blessing in the country; God's blessing on your basket and bread bowl; God's blessing on your children, the crops of your land, the young of your livestock, the calves of your herds, the lambs of your flocks. God's blessing on your coming in, God's blessing on your going out.' Deut. 28.



'The O.T. covenant enshrined the connections between faithfulness to God and the blessings that would result, namely well-being in the home and the community. We should note that the blessings are given by God, but this gave rise within the subsequent Jewish tradition of the practice of pronouncing blessings over a whole range of domestic circumstances.' (Russ Parker) *Like the Celtic Christians, may our prayer today be these words from Deuteronomy – as we pray for our own community in Strathspey.*

We pray for the congregation of St. John, Forres: Hamilton Inbadas, Anthony Matchwick.
.. for each other, that we might be a blessing to those we meet.

May Christ the sun of righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from before our path - and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us remain with us always. Amen.



Monday October 18th

'Jesus had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed

human. It was an incredibly humbling process.' Phil.2.

'This is a key passage in understanding the nature of Christ because it describes his "kenosis", his emptying out, his total self-giving. It was this ideal, this way of living and being, that Jesus tried so hard to teach his disciples.' (Sheila Cassidy)

We pray for surgeons and anaesthetists trying to catch up with surgery waiting lists.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday October 19th

'Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; Lord, hear my voice.' Psalm 130.

God is deeper than the deepest depth in man. The worst thing that can happen to a man is to have no God to cry to out of the depth.

We pray for bold steps to reduce emissions in response to the climate emergency.

Dear Jesus, in a world at war, amongst a people divided, where there is jealousy and hurt, amongst broken families, where nations are in conflict, where there is turmoil within a person's heart, give the love, joy, peace of your Spirit. Amen.



Wednesday October 20th



'This most generous God .. is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God. 2 Cor. 9. If we give first, there's always enough; if we give last, there isn't.

Having money to spend is a privilege and responsibility in a world where

1.4 billion people live on less than £1 a day.

We pray for economists and bankers.

Make us ever eager, Lord, to share the good things that you give us. Give us such a measure of your Spirit that we may find more joy in giving than in getting. Make us ready to give cheerfully, without grudging, secretly without praise, and in sincerity without looking for gratitude; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday October 21st

***'Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him.'* Job 13:15.**

'I have served in the ministry for 30 years. I have come to understand that there are 2 kinds of faith. One says IF and the other says THOUGH. One says, "IF everything goes well, if my life is prosperous, if I'm happy, no-one I love dies, if I'm successful, then I will believe in God and say my prayers and go to church." The other says THOUGH: "THOUGH the cause of evil prosper, though I sweat in Gethsemane, though I must drink my cup at Calvary – nevertheless, precisely then, I will trust the Lord who made me."' (George Everett Ross)

We pray for children who have additional support needs.

Dear Jesus, there is no experience in life that you have not endured before us, no suffering so terrible but you have walked that way yourself. So, Lord, when we are called upon to suffer, help us to know our fellowship with you. Amen.



Friday October 22nd



***'Now this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.'* John 17.**

'The word "mystery" when applied to God and the things of God, does not mean a puzzle we may one day be clever enough to solve, but a truth beyond the limit of our finite minds.' (Michael Mayne – A Year Lost and Found)

We pray for those who suffer domestic abuse.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whose loving kindness we have been born anew; born to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; born to an inheritance which will never perish or be frittered away, but is kept for us in heaven.

Saturday October 23rd

***'It's useless to rise early and go to bed late, and work your worried fingers to the bone. Don't you know he enjoys giving rest to those he loves?'* Psalm 127.**

'The Sabbath is a decisive, concrete, visible way of opting for and aligning with the God of rest.' (Walter Brueggemann)

We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.

Saviour of my soul, this day keep me whole. All the long day light and through the darkness of the night. Amen.