

St Peter's Episcopal Church Kirkcaldy



Pause and Pray

Wednesday 24th March 2021 2pm

SCO10443

Welcome: It has been the tradition at St Peter's Episcopal Church that the Prayer Group compile and conduct a Lent Service as part of their contribution to the Lenten journey. Invitations are extended to our ecumenical neighbours and if you have been able to join us, then a particularly warm welcome.

Last year it was not possible to do this, but the group have resurrected a service from a previous year and we hope that you will enjoy the opportunity to be still and reflect.

The words printed in **bold** are intended to be said by all. The words and images for each hymn will appear on the screen, and I would ask that you remain muted for singing but please do unmute for the words which we will say together.

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Hymn: **Be still for the presence of the Lord**

**Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here
Come bow before Him now
With reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy One is here**

**Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around**

**He burns with holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around**

**Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place**

Bidding prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ,

You called your disciples to go forward with you
On the way to the cross.

Since you first walked that road
Countless millions have followed you.

In all that we do as your disciples,
Save us from false familiarity with your journey.
May we never presume to step into your shoes,
But make us small enough to fit our own,
And to walk in love and wonder behind you. **Amen.**

Reading from Cross Purposes by Eddie Askew

I stand before you, Lord, stained hands, mud on my feet, all my excuses soiled and threadbare as my clothes. And wonder that in the chaos of my life, all the false starts, wrong paths, deliberate detours, the door is still open and the feast awaits.

And as I move towards the door with apprehensive joy I'm not quite sure whose door it is. Yours or mine. I ask you, are you letting me into your life or are you entering mine?

Saying Sorry:

Living God, we admit our faults and our frailty; we own our brokenness and recognise the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. By your abundant grace forgive us, renew us in mind and in spirit, and enable us to grow in love. Move among us and give us life; with the spirit of freedom sustain us that our worship may be joyful and our witness faithful; in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn: **I the Lord of sea and sky**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark-ness now
My hand will save.
I who make the stars of night,
I will make their dark-ness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.***

*I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn a-way.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love a-lone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart***

Intercessions:

God of love

Hear the cry of those who yearn for love. Fractured families, broken homes, neglected, unwanted, alone.
God of love, hear our prayer.

God of justice

Hear the cry of those who yearn for justice, persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-treated, broken.
God of justice, hear our prayer

God of peace

Hear the cry of those who yearn for peace in battle zones and broken states, frightened, fearful, anxious.
God of peace, hear our prayer

God of healing

Hear the cry of those who yearn for healing, physical, spiritual, hurting, weakened, depressed.
God of healing, hear our prayer

God of mercy

Hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy, convicted, in need of your grace, contrite, humble, bowed down.

God of mercy, hear our prayer

**May we know the peace of God,
The love of God,
The justice of God,
The healing and mercy of God
This day and all days. Amen.**

Reading: The World's Pain by George Appleton

O Lord, so many sick, so many starving, so many deprived, so many sad, so many bitter, so many fearful. When we look at them our hearts fail, when we look at you we hope again. Help us to help you to reduce the world's pain. O God of infinite compassion O ceaseless energy of love. **Amen.**

The Peace: Peace with yourself
 Peace with creation
 Peace with one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.
(We share a sign of God's peace)

Hymn: **Christ be our light**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

Prayers:

Because you made the world, and intended it to be a good place, and called its people your children; because, when things seemed at their worst, you came as Christ to bring out the best in us; so, gracious God, we gladly say:

**Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate,
Light is stronger than darkness,
Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because confusion can reign inside us, despite our faith; because anger, tension, bitterness and envy distort our vision; because our minds sometimes worry small things out of all proportion; because we do not always get it right we want to believe.

**Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate,
Light is stronger than darkness,
Truth is stronger than lies.**

Because you have promised to hear us and are able to change us, and are willing to make our hearts your home, we ask you to confront, control, forgive and encourage us, as you know best.

**Goodness is stronger than evil,
Love is stronger than hate,
Light is stronger than darkness,
Truth is stronger than lies.**

**Lord, hear our prayer, and change our lives until we illustrate the grace of the God who makes all things new.
Amen.**

Conclusion:

Lord you are the wind in our sails. You guide us as we steer and find direction. You give us the strength to keep on going. You watch over us as we navigate stormy seas. You are the harbour when we lose hope. You are the lighthouse that keeps our paths safe. You are with us always. Thank you Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: **Will you come and follow me?**

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave your self behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare**

**should your life attract or scare,
will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

Blessing:

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark

You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside

You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor

You are our Lord and keep us from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are our saviour this very day.

May the rainbow of many colours bind us to God himself.
May the soft winds of heaven refresh our spirit
and may sunshine brighten our hearts.
May the burdens of the day rest lightly upon us.
May God enfold us in love.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit, bringing peace beyond all understanding
be with us and remain with us,
and all we love, now and forever. **Amen**