

PENTECOST 6

12 July 2020

Eaglais Easbaigeach na h-Alba san Eilean Dubh
The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle



Charity Number SC010781

St Regulus' Cromarty + St John's, Arpafeelie + St Andrew's, Fortrose

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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

+ First Reading : Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

+ Psalm 65:9-14 (Ref: Is 55:12a)

God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!

**God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!**

Lord, you visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.

**God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!**

You prepare the grain,
for so you provide for the earth.
You drench the furrows
and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground
and bless its increase.

**God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!**

You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
May the fields of the wilderness
be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.

**God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!**

May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

**God's people shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace!**

+ Second Reading : Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending

his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

+ The Holy Gospel : Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands

it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

PRAYER REQUESTS

For a greater love for our Lord in the Eucharist and for Grace to remember that the Presence of Christ we receive in every Communion must be carried forth into the world and lived in love. For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes & heart in the world...that we all may LIVE and BE the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

For all places where Covid 19 and other diseases are on the rise. For all in leadership in health care and government and for the Spirit's guidance re the ending of lockdown. For all suffering with Covid 19, for all our healthcare workers, for all working for a cure, for all shop workers, lorry drivers, all we are depending on for our safety, health and protection and all living in fear of it. For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters & brothers of the Church of Papua New Guinea : Archbishop Allan Magi.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Janet S, David T, Jaime W, Rachael W, Sandra W, Bp Kevin P, Fr Ian B, their families and all who are studying for Ordination or Readership...for their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop. For our brothers & sisters of St Columba's, Nairn. For Inverness Street Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Pray for all whose weddings and baptisms have had to be postponed. For one another as we live through this challenging time...especially those who are experiencing a profound loneliness. For the good health and safety of all. For Isaac & family. For Mark W & loved ones. For Janet S as she studies for ordination. For those whose relationships / marriages are struggling. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. Pray for our Sunday Club in St Regulus'. For our Teen Gatherings. For James and his work

in Biblical translation in Nigeria. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

God has established his people in hope. Nothing can break the confidence of those who love him.

Let us proclaim:

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

We give you thanks, Lord God, for you have made mankind rich in all wisdom and insight; inspire us to use your gifts for the good of all.

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

Lord God, you know the hearts of all rulers: May they work for the good of the people they govern.

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

Lord, you empower mankind to glorify this world with art: make our work live with vision and true hope.

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

You do not allow us to be tempted beyond our limits: strengthen all who are struggling, raise up the fallen.

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

Father, you have promised us a share in your Son's resurrection on the last day: remember those who have gone before us on the path to eternal life.

– *Father, our trust is in you.*

In a moment of silence, call to mind the concerns of your own heart with those listed above and lift them up to God. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

FOODBANK

It would be very helpful if donations of tinned vegetables could be made for the Foodbank. That seems to be a major need at this time!!!! (I am delighted to report that our foodbank collection boxes are being filled and brought to the bank several times a week...our communities are being wonderfully generous! No surprise there!)

AS THE CHURCH DEPLOYED...

LET US UNITE IN PRAYER FROM OUR HOMES

Dear All,

This has been a weird week of feeling less than well. My advancing years seems to have brought an abundance of migraine headaches... though the very changeable weather has not been a help haha.

I must say, the Foodbank bins on the Rectory doorstep, are being a source of constant joy and inspiration. I hear the same from St Reg's! So much kindness. So much generosity! Let's keep it up. The aftermath of Covid will likely see many struggling for a good while, so thought of us who are able, let's do all we can!

I fear it will be some time yet before we get any "all clear" message and begin to get ourselves back to relative normality. The important thing is that we all keep ourselves safe and sound. I am glad to see our Church and the Scottish Government are seeing that as the priority as well. While we miss gathering in our beautiful buildings, it is we who are the Church and not said places of assembly. If this strange time has left us with nothing else, it has certainly underscored that great truth! Even though we have missed and are still missing each other, prayer and praise have continued...in many ways, increased! (Daily Morning and Evening Prayer are being followed, on average, by upwards of 50 people each...and the Sunday Eucharist by near 200!) It all reminds me of the old evening hymn, "The Day Thou Gavest" and the verse:

As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.
Much love to all!

Mel +

RE DAILY PRAYER...

FACEBOOK : many have been joining me daily as I stream the Morning and Evening Offices live on Facebook from my home...I think we have to be friends in FB for you to access that but I will certainly welcome you!

ALSO:

I share, once again, information re how to join with me in prayer each day during this time...

If you have a tablet, computer or smart phone you are able to join me. The Offices are found at :

universalis.com

Look up Office of Readings, Morning Prayer etc on the site....and even the daily Eucharist readings.

I will be offering these prayers at:

7 am : Invitatory & Office of Readings

9 am : Morning Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

6 pm : Evening Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

10 pm : Night Prayer aka Compline

7 pm Eucharist on Tuesdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Thursdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Sundays (Facebook livestream and emailed link to all)

It is part of my duty as a priest to pray the Office and to offer the Mass for you....so that will not cease! Please join me, if you can, from your homes for even one of those prayer times.

Also, the Sunday Readings will be included, like today, in the emailed Newsletter.

PLEASE, let us all do what we can to be safe and sound....**BUT, let us also do all we can to support and encourage one another.**

**IN THE MIDST OF
THE CURRENT CRISIS**

**Let's not forget to love
and take care of one another.**

We are a community...a good one...

**Let loving kindness
and generosity**

be our rule...as always!!!

**If you need anything or just a friendly voice,
ring me at 01381 622 241 (or 07780 512
990)...and I will do my utmost!**

MORE USEFUL PRAYERS...

A Bidding Intercession

The leader should add particular intentions to each bidding. In the course of the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for this gathering, for our bishop Mark, and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified. Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

I ask your prayers for peace, for goodwill among nations, and for the well-being of all people.

Silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, hear the cry of those in misery and need. In their afflictions show them your mercy, and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them, for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I ask your prayers for the mission of the Church. Pray for the coming of God's kingdom among all nations and peoples.

Silence

O Lord our God, you have made all races and nations to be one family, and you sent your Son Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people. Pour out your Spirit on the whole creation, bring the nations of the world into your fellowship, and hasten the coming of your kingdom. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I ask your prayers for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone. Pray that God may be glorified in all his saints.

Silence

O God, the giver of eternal life, we give you thanks and praise for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all your saints. Grant to us, and to all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, a share in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ and fullness of joy in the fellowship of all your saints. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us give thanks to almighty God for all his goodness.

Silence

You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honour and power. You are worthy to receive blessing and praise, now and for ever.

The leader concludes with the following doxology.
For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.