

PENTECOST 7

19 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, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

+ First Reading : Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old
the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

+ Psalm 86:11-17

You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

I will thank you, O Lord my God,
with all my heart,
and glorify your Name for evermore.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

You are slow to anger,
and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

Show me a sign of your favour,
so that those who hate me
may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped me
and comforted me.

**You, O Lord, are gracious
and full of compassion.**

+ Second Reading : Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free

from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

+ The Holy Gospel : Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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 the Philippines : Archbishop Joel Atiwag Pachao.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Valerie C, Rebekah C, Joshua C, Lisa C, Jackie F, Paul H, Ross J, 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 Christ Church, Huntly; Holy Trinity, Keith; Gordon Chapel, Fochabers; St. Michael, Dufftown and St. Marnan's, Aberchirder. For Inverness Street Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Pray for our Vestry as we discuss relaxing lockdown measures within our three churches. 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

Let us pray for the peace of the world: the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this country, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, our First Minister, the Prime Minister, and all in authority: the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of service and sacrifice.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the departed: the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Lord, hear our prayer.

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,

NEWSLETTER...It has been said that our Newsletter is not very newsy! How about someone from each of our congregations take responsibility for penning a few words, each week, about what has been, is or will be happening within that congregation? Nothing gossipy! But news from our members that we have permission to share? Please let Fr Mel know if you are interested in being that person for your gang!!!!

Our Vestry will be discussing possible measures re the reopening of our churches. Relaxation is happening...but it is the right time? Please keep us in prayer as we begin to unravel requirements, etc. And please be patient!

Much love to all!

Mel +

RE DAILY PRAYER...

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)

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.