

PENTECOST 8

26 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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

+ First Reading : 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in

faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

+ Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.
Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your Name.
Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.

+ Second Reading : Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he

predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

+ **The Holy Gospel : Matthew 13:31-33,44-52**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every

scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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 the Bishops of the Communion in the light of Lambeth Conference postponement...and for those who are trying to arrange a future date.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Pauline J, Claire N, Colin P, Lesley P, Roberta R, Louise S, Philip S, 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 Margaret's, Aberlour. 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

In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying,

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for all who confess the name of Christ: fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for those whose lives are bound in mutual love, and for those who live in celibacy: be their joy and their strength.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all in danger, for those who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, refugees, victims of oppression: grant them your salvation.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who are facing trials and difficulties, for those who are sick, and those who are dying: show them your kindness and mercy.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray for one another: may we always be united in service and love.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

We pray to be forgiven our sins and set free from all hardship, distress, war, and injustice.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

May we discover new and just ways of sharing the goods of the earth, struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern: may we all live by the abundance of your mercies and find joy together.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

As we remember our departed loved one and all who have died, we be strengthened by our communion with all Christ's saints.

Lord, hear and have mercy.

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,

Vestry met via Zoom on Tuesday past and were united in concern for our people. We have begun to put things in place for the re-opening of our churches but it is a way off just yet.

Several felt that because of their own health they would not be able to be present...Others felt that many would feel very anxious about possibly contracting the virus and would not be able to enter, truly, into worship.

The idea of assigned seats, signing in, no singing, and a whole list of other temporary changes were discussed.

Concerns were raised concerning the influx of tourists as well. (I have to say that on Tuesday afternoon within a 2 hour period, I counted 28 campervans heading down Academy Street and I have been told of hundreds more parked in laybys, etc.) I confess I went to the big retail park to do a shop and when I saw the numbers milling about, I could not bring myself to get out of the car!

Soooo, your Vestry plans to meet again in 2 weeks to see how preparations are going and how we feel. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS**, do not hesitate to message myself, Ramsay, or any of our Vestry persons!

OPEN GARDEN AT CULISH

Gill Pimm has graciously opened her amazing Garden for the month of July....11am – 4pm...donations most welcome and to benefit Marie Curie Cancer Charity!!! Honey, Jams, Plants and much more!!!! Not to mention a friendly hello from the hostess with the moistest!!!!

Foodbank donations have very much slowed down over the past couple of weeks...please remember that the need is still very much there!!!!

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!**