

Orchardhill Quiet Time Evening Service

10 August 2022

Good evening and a very warm welcome to our Quiet Time service coming from Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church in Glasgow. We are delighted that you are here to join us in this short online service of prayer and reflection and you are all most welcome. We worship together as part of Christ's family taking comfort from God's constant presence. We share this quiet time within the embrace of God's wondrous love, joined together by the Spirit of the Risen Lord.

In the Gospel of St Matthew, chapter 19 we read:

Then children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands upon them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people; but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Let us pray:

Blessed Lord, into your presence we come this evening for a few moments of quietness. We come before you just as we are, with our own thoughts and feelings, our joys and anxieties, knowing that we are loved unconditionally by You. As we read Your word and listen for Your voice, open our eyes to Your presence in our lives, and open our lives to Your grace and majesty. May You come to us through the presence of Your spirit, to share in our worship. Amen.

On Sunday we had the great pleasure of witnessing a baptism in our church and this week, our church is holding its summer club for children. Each morning activities, songs, readings, crafts and games have been organised for children from our own church, our local community and beyond. And so, our thoughts turn to the children and to those adults involved in organising and leading the event.

We have two contrasting readings from the Bible this evening. Both have been themes that have been discussed with the children in our summer club – one is about personal greed and the other about generosity towards God. Our first reading is from Luke chapter 12, verses 13-21. From early in his ministry, Jesus attracted large crowds of people who gathered around him, wishing to hear what he had to say about the Kingdom of Heaven. And he often spoke to them in parables.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink

and be merry.” But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Our second reading comes from Mark chapter 12, verses 41-44. Jesus has entered Jerusalem with his disciples. The dramatic events of his trial and crucifixion are nearing although his disciples do not yet know it. Jesus is in the Temple of Jerusalem:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, which make a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” Amen.

Our choice of music this evening comes from the children’s singing group ‘Colour Music’. The children are from Ukraine. Only a few weeks ago they sang in Berlin along with the band Coldplay at a charity concert in support of Ukraine. How remarkable that they are still able to sing together during such terrible times for their homeland. This recording was made 3 years ago,

before the war with Russia had begun. The song is *You Raise Me Up*. Let's listen to it now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRclEMgppK8>

Let us come together now in prayer. Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, we come to You with our prayers this evening, to thank You for all the ways Your grace and mercy fill our lives. We come in love, in wonder and in praise for You are our strength, our refuge and our comforter.

Almighty God, we pray for our beloved children. You have taught us that children belong to the Kingdom of Heaven, that they are blessed in your sight. We thank you for our church's summer club being held this week and for the many children who are enjoying a wide range of fun activities and learning more about Jesus each day before they return once more to school. We ask you to remember our teenagers too as they take part in our Chip's summer café evening events. Lord, may You bless each one of them and all the organisers of our club, for their remarkable commitment and hard work in preparing the events. And we also commend to You those who are involved in the many similar events being held by other churches around the country and beyond, for their dedication to our children.

God of compassion, in these turbulent and uncertain times, our thoughts turn to the Ukrainian children from the singing group 'Colour Music' and the many children

throughout the world who are not so fortunate, who are living in war zones, in places of drought, famine, and disease, who have been displaced. Seeking shelter, their families have been forced to journey far from their homes, some having to leave behind relations and loved ones, splitting up their families and their communities, uncertain of their own futures. and their families. May You watch over them all and comfort them in their time of need. May they receive the aid they so desperately need and may countries - and their governments - do all they can to offer them places of refuge and not to turn them away.

Loving Lord, we thank You also for all those organisations and their aid workers who facilitate their journeys and help to find them much-needed support, comfort and security. We remember all those close to home and in countries far away who are actively committed to ensuring that hungry children and their families are fed, the sick are treated, the homeless are sheltered and the poor are cared for, those who, in their everyday lives, reveal Your love.

Heavenly Father, we bring before You the many families who are struggling with the rise in food prices, ever-increasing costs of essential supplies, challenged by how to provide for their children. Thank you for the many food banks which have sprung up to help those in need, to help them through such difficult times. May they know the loving touch of Your comforting Spirit, we pray.

And finally, Lord, we thank You for our own church, our minister Gillian and her family, our youth and family worker Lorna, the church staff and everyone who helps behind the scenes to allow us to worship together as one family, bound together by the love of Christ. We remember all those known to us for whom this is a difficult time, because of the loss of someone dear to them, or of personal illness, or of anxiety. We pray that You will enfold them in your loving arms. May You watch over all of us, we pray. We thank you for Your wondrous love, given to us in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

And now let us come together to say the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name;
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. **Amen**

And now let us close this evening's service with this blessing for us all.

May the Lord bless us and our families and keep us all safe. May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon each one of us, and give us peace this evening and forever more. **AMEN**