

## Quiet-Time Service - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Good Evening. We're delighted that you're here to join us in this short, online service of prayer and reflection and you're warmly welcome. I'm speaking to you from our beautiful sanctuary in Orchardhill Parish Church, Giffnock, and we link many homes, including yours, with our awareness of the presence of the one God who makes us sisters and brothers to each other. Whether your home is busy and full or peaceful and quiet this evening, please reach your spirit into our common belonging as we share some quiet time within the embrace of God's love.

### Let us pray together:

Wonderful, life-giving God,  
we thank you for all that has happened to us over the past week,  
for the conversations we have had with others,  
for those with whom we work each day,  
for those moments that have been quieter than the rest.  
We thank you for our friends and family who have supported and encouraged us, and with whom we have shared joy, laughter and sorrow.  
We thank you for your Son Jesus,  
for all that he showed us of your love and care for all humanity.  
We thank you for his birth among us,  
for his coming as a fragile child  
and we thank you for his coming again in power and glory, at your appointed time.  
We thank you for your church, which nurtures our faith and teaches us, through word and deed, your ways of truth and love.  
We thank you especially for those in your church in whom we have caught a glimpse of you.  
We thank you, loving God, for your continuing guidance and presence in our lives.  
Forgive us, generous God:  
when instead of giving back, we take more;  
when instead of giving thanks, we take for granted;  
when instead of sharing, we hoard;  
when instead of listening, we shout;  
when instead of looking out for others,  
we look out only for ourselves.  
Forgive us, and inspire us to follow in the steps of Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, our Saviour and our friend.  
In a short period of quietness we remember those times this week when our thoughts, actions and words marred your image in us, hurt others and damaged the world.

### ***Silence***

God has heard the confession of our hearts and minds.

In Christ we are set free.

Thanks be to God.

**Amen.**

### **Matthew 18:23-33**

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle the accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But since he was not able to pay, his master ordered that he be sold with his wife, their children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

"So the servant fell on his knees, pleading with him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "But that same servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe.' "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and entreated him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

"But he would not and went and threw him in prison until he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what took place, they were very sorry and went and told their master all that had taken place. "Then his master, after he had summoned him, said to him, 'O you wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, even as I had pity on you?'

### **Talk - Pay it forward**

Paying it forward is the concept of sharing the blessing you have received with others, not just because they deserve it, but rather because you chose to do so.

The phrase pay it forward was made popular by the release of the film in 2000 entitled "Pay It Forward. For those who can't remember the film, it's about a school teacher who gives his class an assignment: to look at the world around you and fix what you don't like.

One student has an idea, in order to fulfil the assignment he came up with the pay it forward concept. He decides to:

- do something that really helps people;
- it has to be something they can't do for themselves; and
- after you do it for that person, then do it for three other people.

In the film this concept, conceived in the mind by a small boy and put into action, was shown to spread all around the country.

Yes - this was a film, but would it not be great to see it in the real world.

Today the phrase, "Pay it forward," has become almost iconic. And it is often reported in random acts of kindness by complete strangers in everything from paying for the coffee of

the person behind you in the queue, to leaving money for the next emergency service member who calls into the shop for a sandwich between jobs.

The heart of “pay it forward” could be based on Jesus’ statement in Matthew 7:12, “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

As I was reading this, I was reminded again of the simplicity, but depth of that passage. Sometimes called the golden rule, it calls on us to treat other people the way we want to be treated. It releases the love of God in our lives and enables us to make a difference.

Paying it forward requires us to take the focus off of our lives, our problems, and our self-interest - looking for opportunities to do good. To give a helping hand. To contribute to worthy causes. To offer assistance to someone in need.

Paying it forward calls for us to genuinely care about other people. The Bible is full of examples such as The Good Samaritan - he paid it forward because he cared and felt compassion for a hurting, helpless man. Paying it forward may not be that dramatic, but simply a kind, encouraging word.

Paying it forwards involves humility. A heart that truly wants to help doesn’t care who gets the credit. That’s why in so many “pay it forward” acts of kindness the donor is anonymous or at least doesn’t linger to receive any praise.

In her book, Harvest of Hope: Living Victoriously Through Adversity, Dana Arcuri challenges us with these words, “Today, I challenge you to pay it forward. You don’t need to save a village—only one lost soul. Be the reflection of Christ and shine His light. The cost is little, but the reward is rich.”

Christians are called to live this type of existence. We have been blessed in big ways by God and we are called to share those blessings with others.

If we are seeking to grow in our faith and our relationship with God; being able to pay it forward will be an important part of our development. Amen

Let us listen to “We are One in the Spirit” - [here](#)

### **Let us join together in prayer, let us pray:**

Gracious heavenly Father,

We Pray for:

those who feel they have no need of you;

those whose suffering and sorrow are too great for us to share;

those who wait and pray in patience;

those who agonise over injustice;

those who show mercy and compassion;

those whose purity and grace inspire others;

those who work for peace where no peace seems possible;  
those whose witness to truth and justice has brought them suffering.

We ask your blessing on our Church family, but especially we pray for those who are sick and housebound. Grant that we may never forget them, and show us ways of sharing with them the fellowship we enjoyed today.

Be very near to any of our number who are facing anxiety and heartache and who feel they cannot cope. Loving Father, uphold them and grant them your strength and peace.

Let us pray for those who carry great stress because of family situations,

Those setting out on a new life together,

Those struggling to bring up a family without sufficient means to do so,

Those concerned for children who have left home and who don't know where they are or what is happening to them

Those coping with a new home or new job or new baby,

Those about to begin retirement,

Those who have served your church over many years but who now feel out of things because they can no longer be actively involved.

Lord, teach us to pray with love and understanding; to try to enter into the real needs that are around us: to believe that through our prayers, you heal and bless. Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord

**Amen.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Let us pray with confidence as our saviour has taught us:

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.

### **Blessing**

Eternal God and Father,

by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed:

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves to your service,

and live this day in love to one another and to you;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**