

## **Quiet Time Service**

**25<sup>th</sup> May 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 service of prayer, readings, music and reflection. Whether you are present in the Sanctuary, joining us live through “Zoom” or listening on the podcast you are most welcome.

We are all invited to worship together as part of Christ’s family and to take comfort from God’s constant presence.

It is perhaps stating the obvious to say that we are living in challenging times. Our TV screens are dominated by the conflict in Ukraine, the misery resulting from the cost of living crisis and the gloomy economic outlook, both at home and abroad. More locally, we also have to face an uncertain future within our Church of Scotland. We can sometimes feel overwhelmed by all that is happening and unsure if we are courageous or strong enough to respond in the way that Jesus taught us. We need courage, but where do we find this?

**A good starting point is prayer. Let us pray.**

Loving Father, each of us arrives from all the ordinariness of living.

We come to centre ourselves once more.

To touch again that place inside.

And to choose again our better selves.  
Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the  
presence of God.

We bring our hopes and anticipations.  
We bring our joys and celebrations.  
We bring our sorrows and lamentations.  
We bring our faith and adorations.  
We bring to this short time of worship  
all that makes our lives real and meaningful,  
that they may be blessed by communion  
with the lives of others.

We enter into this time and this place  
to join our hearts and minds together  
to remember what is most important in life.  
To be challenged to live more truly, more deeply,  
to live with integrity  
and kindness and with hope and love,  
to feel the company of those who seek a common path,  
to be renewed in our faith in the promise of this life,  
to be strengthened and to find the courage  
to continue to do what we must do,  
day after day, world without end, Amen.

**We can look to Scripture for courage and strength and  
our first reading is Psalm 97, where we read of the  
glory and power of God.**

- 1 The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;  
let the distant shores rejoice.
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him  
and consumes his foes on every side.
- 4 His lightning lights up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
and all peoples see his glory.
- 7 All who worship images are put to shame,  
those who boast in idols –  
worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion hears and rejoices  
and the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments, Lord.
- 9 For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 Let those who love the Lord hate evil,  
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light shines on the righteous  
and joy on the upright in heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous,  
and praise his holy name.

Courage and strength also come from discussing and sharing our concerns with our brothers and sisters in Christ and seeking unity with them, as the more we are one, the more we will be an effective Church in the world. **The Gospel reading is from John Chapter 17, verses 20-26 in which Jesus prays for all believers. It invites us into the unity that comes from being with God, just as God is with us.**

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,  
21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

**Let us now have a few moments of reflection as we listen to the old hymn, Courage Brother, Do Not Stumble, written by Norman MacLeod, who was born in Campbeltown in 1812 and was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1869. He wrote this hymn around 1857. The tune was composed by Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. This recording comes from St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen**  
<https://youtu.be/bxi7uu771uE>

**We now join together in our prayers for our world, community and ourselves:**

**Let us pray.**

Almighty Father, at this time when we hear of war, poverty, famine and economic uncertainty on a daily basis, help us to understand how we should respond. Inspire us and give us the courage to speak out and act whenever we see injustice and need. May we not just talk of peace and justice, but follow this through, not just have an idea but make it happen, not complain about injustice, but do something about it. May we turn our words into acts, our thoughts into reality, our intent into a way of life. Bless us with righteous anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

Bless us with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all

that they cherish, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and transform their pain into joy. Lord, help us to believe that we really can make a difference in this world, so that we are able, with Your grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

Lord we particularly pray for the people of Ukraine. Give them courage and strength to cope with the unimaginable horrors that they are facing. We ask that You hold in your loving arms those who have suffered loss of loved ones, homes, careers and their entire way of life and that you give strength to all those who are working to help these people, often in the face of great danger. We also ask that you enter the hearts of those intent on death and destruction and cause them to pull back from inflicting further suffering.

Loving Father, we also pray for those in our own country and community who at this time are struggling to cope with illness, bereavement, poverty and stress. Help them to know that they are not alone and help us not to walk by on the other side, but to reach out with helping hands whenever we see need.

In a few moments of silence, we bring before you those known to us who are suffering in mind or body at this time. (Few moments of silence)

Finally, Father, we pray for our own congregation of Your people. Bless and guide our Minister, Gillian, all of our office bearers and staff and all of us as we face

uncertainty and grant us wisdom to see the best way forward towards the advancement of Your Kingdom in this area.

Through Christ our Lord, our Saviour and our friend.

AMEN

**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

**A Blessing**

We go now, knowing that the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

We go in the power of love, with the blessing of God upon us. Amen