

Quiet Time Service

27th October 2021

Good evening and a very warm welcome to our Quiet Time service of readings, prayer, music and reflection, linking our beautiful sanctuary at Giffnock Orchardhill Parish Church in Glasgow with your homes. Whether you are joining us live through “Zoom” or listening on the podcast we are pleased that you are with us. This evening we think of the troubles of the poor, destitute and marginalised peoples of our World, both far and near and how decisions that might or might not be taken at the forthcoming COP26 Climate Conference in our city will impact on them.

Let us pray together:

Into your presence we come, Lord, for a few moments of reflection this evening. We gather wherever we are, whether in the church or in our homes. We gather in the quiet. We gather to learn. We gather to praise you, Lord, whose teaching that we love one another is fundamental to our commitment to live lives that are acceptable to you, but which teaching we so often find hard to follow. Bless the reading of your Word, the sharing of our fellowship and the prayers that will be heard. Breathe on us now with your Holy Spirit that we might know your presence and your peace. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

We will bless the Lord at all times,
God's praise will continually be in our mouths.
Our souls make their boast in the Lord,
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with us,
let us exalt God's name together.
Come praise the Lord
All God's servants
All who serve in God's temple
Give thanks to the Lord for God's love is eternal
Let us worship giving God all praise and glory

This evening's first reading is Psalm 34. The theme is deliverance from trouble and confidence that the Lord will rescue the righteous.

- 1 I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.
- 2 I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
- 3 Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.
- 6 This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

11 Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,

13 keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.

14 Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

16 but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth.

17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

18 The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

20 he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

21 Evil will slay the wicked; the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

22 The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

We can now reflect on how the Lord teaches us to consider what we can do for others, as we listen to Hymn 527 – Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace.

This was written by James J. Quinn, but it is really a paraphrase of The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. James Quinn was born in Glasgow in 1919 and died in Edinburgh in 2010. He was a Roman Catholic priest and prolific hymn writer and was very involved in promoting Christian unity. The tune is the English traditional melody O Waly Waly.

[Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace on Vimeo](#)

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

Let us pray.

Loving Father, we come to You, because we know You'll hear our cry.

We come to You, because You call us near to You.

We come to You, because You deliver and save.

We come to You now with our prayers and petitions.

When grief and pain, poverty and persecution
leave people blind to grace and compassion,
we pray for the courage to carry the light
of comfort and consolation, love and forgiveness.
As You intercede for us, Jesus,
we intercede for our world that all may know
the Good News of restoration in Christ.

Father, we ask that You place your caring arms around
all those who are suffering as a result of war and
violence, injustice and inequality, poverty, disease and
prejudice. In particular we pray for the people of
Afghanistan, at a time of a developing humanitarian
crisis. We pray for those who are refugees and seek
safety in another country, despite the dangers of the
journey. Lord of compassion, we remember those who
live in fear of any kind - help them to know you are with
them always. We ask that you bring comfort to all who
are struggling in their lives, hope for an end to their
sufferings and for a resolution of their difficulties.

At this time, Lord, when World leaders are about to
meet to try to address huge issues affecting the World
which you created, we pray particularly for all of Your
people whose lives are or have been devastated by
changes to climate – those who have lost homes and
possessions, land, crops, livelihoods. We ask that you
comfort the families and loved ones of the thousands
who have perished as a result of fire, flood, drought or
famine resulting from global warming. Grant to those in

positions of power, who will be attempting to reach agreement on new policies designed to limit the damage to our planet, the strength and wisdom to see beyond political and economic issues and self interest and instil in them an appreciation of the potential catastrophic outcome for our children and our children's children if firm and wide-ranging action is not taken now.

Gracious God, we commend to you the work and service of all public and charitable organisations, both in this country and afar, who seek to improve the lives of poorest members of society, of the sick, of the homeless and of those fleeing from conflict. Lord, do not allow their appeals for support to go unheeded, particularly by those blessed with the resources to assist.

O Lord, we bring before you those who are terminally ill and ask you to support them and their loved ones at this time. Be with those who are heartbroken because of the death of a dear loved one - comfort them in their grief, O Lord. We bring to you those who carry the burden of great stress because of family situations, particularly those struggling with illness and those trying to bring up a family without sufficient means to do so. And in the stillness now, we bring before you those known to us who are suffering at this time. **[A moment of silence]**

May your guiding hands embrace them all. As we lift our own hidden prayers to You in silence, we know that You hear even that which is unspoken.

Finally, Father, we pray for our own congregation. For our Minister Elect, Gillian and her family; Our Interim Moderator, John, who has devoted so much time to supporting us over the past months; Our office bearers; Our Church Officer, Isabella; Our Youth and Families Worker, Lorna; Our Secretary, Carol-Anne; Our Organist and Choirmaster, David and all those working publicly and behind the scenes to support this congregation of Your people, as we share the warmth of Your love, the comfort of Your presence and the wonder of Your Grace. Taking comfort from our prayers may we comfort one another through Your love and the sharing of our experience. Hear our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our final reading is a poem entitled Poverty-stricken,
by Janet Martin, who lives in Ontario, Canada**

Desperately poor are we who live
Driven by hunger for things
Desperately poor, who do not give
Blinded by selfish wanting

Desperately poor; the heart; cold, vile
Turning a stone-deafened ear
To the anguished cry of mother and child
With no food or clothes to wear

Desperately poor, are we who seek
Treasures of moth-eaten strings
Desperately poor, as fool-hearted thieves
Bound by the striving for things

Desperately poor, the heart enslaved
To temporal pearls of sod
Desperately poor, are we who serve
Our things in place of God

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

With the healing love of Christ,
and the strengthening power of the Spirit
rest in the knowledge that God always provides.
Therefore give and love with a generous heart,
for this honours God who is most generous and loving
And the Blessing of Almighty God
Father Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you all, now and for evermore
Amen.