

Everyone has a part

St Nicholas Church
Sighthill
14th June 2020

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to live, the way to behave, help us to want to be more like you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

God is good... all the time

Call to worship/ Opening Prayer

Lord our God,
it is by Your breath
that we live.
It is because of Your Spirit
that we exist.
Your kiss of life
is our daily revival.
You are the wind beneath
our wings.



Bible Reading

Peace and Hope (Romans 5:1-8)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Song: Be still for the presence for the Lord
The Holy one is here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Discipling God, we are made in your image and called to follow your Son, Jesus, the risen Christ. We are to be like him in every way, even unto death. Lord, this is scary stuff, help us.

Along with our brothers and sisters around the world, we gather to offer this time of worship, to acknowledge your love for us, revealed in Jesus. In these strange days, our gatherings are very different, apart and yet united by our love for you. Even today the harvest is large, many people seeking to find you amid this global pandemic and the fears and anxieties it holds for each one of us. We are discovering new ways to engage with people and we are grateful for the wonder of technology that allows us to reach out to people in our communities and beyond.

Forgive us, Lord, when we fail you, when we choose our own way instead of yours. Forgive us, Lord, for our frailties, help us move forward determined to be more like the people you created us to be, using our gifts and talents for the work of your kingdom, here and now.

Brief Reflection

"And we boast in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2)

We often associate hope with wishful thinking. Don't we? We hope, for example, that it won't rain or that our football or rugby team will win. We hope for the best, but sense disappointment looming or lurking round the corner. There are also those times when we want to 'dare to hope' – but fail to even 'think wishfully'. We fear our pain or problems are beyond hope. Thankfully, Paul's understanding of hope is different and life-changing. He teaches that the hope of God's people is grounded in God's faithfulness to keep His promises. It is built, as we often sing, 'on nothing less - than Jesus Christ our righteousness'. It is that hope; a hope that is grounded in God and which seeks to look up to Him and to glorify Him that can inspire us as we live our lives in Christ, even in the face of trouble or disappointment. In hope, we refuse to give up, but hold on to God's word, like these words, "**Don't be afraid. Trust me**" (Mark 5:36) Jesus said to Jairus when, it seems to me, Jairus, his family and his friends had lost hope.

Again, hope is not wishful thinking. It is the only thing stronger than fear." We have hope and can dare to live in hope, because we trust that **what God will do for the believer is not based on the believer's conduct, but it is grounded on what God has already done for the believer in Christ.** Apostle Paul helpfully reminds us (verse 6) of what God has done for us. He says, '*Just at the right time, when we were still powerless (a form of hopelessness) Christ died for the ungodly*'. I asked a friend who had recently gone through a tough time, how he was able not only to cope, but also, to use his words, to have grown in His faith in God. He said,

Son, this is what I learnt. Each day has troubles. Sometimes the troubles are so great that we fear they will break us. Unimaginable troubles...we never saw coming, hit us with such force, we are knocked down. We look up, searching for help, but we feel weighted down where we are. But the Son of God, who promised to be with us always, knows we will have troubled times like these. He was there with me, in Spirit and through my family and other angels on earth. He did not let me down. He is my God of Hope.

Hope comes from remembering all that God has done for us. As Paul again reminds us (1 Cor. 13:13) faith, hope, and love are at the heart of the Christian life. Our relationship with God begins with faith, which helps us realize that we are delivered from our past by Christ's death. Hope grows as we learn all that God has in mind for us; it gives us the promise of the future. And God's love fills our life and enables us to reach out to others. Amen

'Lord God, forgive us then when our remembering is half-hearted and poorly informed. And in a world so troubled and so divided as is now the case, forgive us that we've forgotten so much of what so many fought and died for. And not least as today we remember those who perished or were taken prisoner at Saint Valéry, eighty years ago, on this day. These men of the 51st Highland Division paid the ultimate price". This is part of a prayer Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland wrote last week a special prayer to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the battle of St Valery.

Prayer for others

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? So why has the healing of my dear people not come about? Jeremiah asked (Jeremiah 8:22)

Is there no balm in Gilead, Holy God? For we, your people, desperately need a balm, a healing, a sense that the desperate pain we are feeling will come to an end. We need a balm, God of love and peace, a healing of the ancient and malignant evil of racism. We need to be made whole. Racism continues to show its ugly face in

the midst of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, which continues to sicken and kill people throughout the world, even as governments disagree on how best to contain and control the spread of the virus.

According to a recent WHO report, 7.4 million people in the world have tested positive with virus and sadly, there are 410,000 known covid-19 related deaths. We are equally worried that statistics everywhere are uncertain and that the knowledge of the behaviour of the virus remains the subject of intense medical and immunological research. Lord Jesus, we need a balm. Grant us a lasting healing for our troubled bodies, spirits and communities. Around the world, situations of pain and threat demand our attention, and yours, O God. We need a balm, God of Hope; a healing for the broken places in our world.

Driven to our knees by covid-19, by several other illnesses, by loss and pain, our minds and hearts filled with questions and doubts. Our spirits are often at their lowest ebb in these recent days. We turn to you, Father, in desperation, knowing that only in you can we find comfort, healing and justice - a balm for everything we cannot seem to get right or well on our own. And, though we are not yet able to sing in our churches, we all can sing on our own. So, we lift our quavering and tear-filled voices and sing,

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal our souls. Sometimes we feel discouraged and think our work is in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives our souls again. There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal our soul. Jesus says, 'Come all ye, that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest'. So we come; we come to you Lord God, through you son Jesus Christ. We come to you, our God, the only one that can unite us, heal us, save us, empower us and meet all at our points of need. We come. We come one, we come all. Amen.

Closing Song: Peace in Christ

by 5-year old Claire Ryann Crosby and her Dad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Waitmz6C100>

Final blessings

God, help us shake the dust off our feet, and go into the world with a spirit of healing love. Faith, belief and discipleship are to be lived out. May we, your followers in this generation, go to meet our world: with your blessing, with the example of Jesus ever before us, and the energy of the Spirit driving us. Amen

God is good all the time