

Prayer Resources for Presbytery of Glasgow Elders' Conference 5 March 2022

Grief Reading : Psalm 23

O Lord, our Shepherd, who leads us by still waters
and into green pastures,
We look to you for guidance, strength and hope in
the midst of our grief.

Teach us to remember that you are with us at all
times when the way ahead is unclear
in our loss and sorrow.

Grant us faith so that we may learn to walk with
you in the valley of the shadow of death and to
face the unknown unafraid.

May we experience mercy and goodness to
enable us to follow you into the future.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, we pray.
Amen

Death and Dying Reading : Psalm 116:8-19

Eternal God, before whom the generations rise
and pass away,

We seek your grace and goodness as we face the
final mystery of life.

Give us courage to accept what cannot be
changed;

Comfort us when we are tearful and uncertain,
and our faith shakes and wobbles;

Enable us to listen to the word of promise which
assures us that death is not the end;

May our feelings of helplessness and despair be
overcome;

Conquer our terror and fears about the future,
knowing love may be our companion
in the assurance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen

Challenges Reading: Psalm 12 or Psalm 124

O God, our help in ages past and our strength in
years to come,

Make us aware that when we face unknown of
unfamiliar situations and opportunities that your
grace surrounds us, sustains us and guides us.

Encourage us to use the experience we have to
grasp hold of new possibilities;

Guard us from being overwhelmed and uncertain
of our skills, knowledge and gifts;

Grasp us once again with the awareness of your
loving kindness directing and caring for us in all
our endeavours and adventures;

Give us confidence to follow Jesus Christ our Lord
in whose name we pray. Amen

Isolation Reading : Psalm 22:1-5; 19-24

God of Grace

When we have lost what is most dear to us,
when we are doubtful about our place in your
family,
when we forget our blessings of food, friends and
faith,

Touch us with an awareness of your presence
with us in the depths of our being, even when we
feel most alone and isolated.

When we feel left behind and alone, give us the
certainty that we have worth and value in your
sight.

Make us aware that we are your children,
encompassed by your love and care, in the name
of Jesus Christ, your Son, we pray. Amen

Worried Reading : Psalm 121

O God of sunshine and shadow

We lay before you the mingled stories of success
and failure, acceptance and rejection, happiness
and sadness in our lives.

You know before we articulate them, the fear and
anxieties of our days.

Enable us to rely on your guidance through all the
joys, sorrows, disappointments and fulfilment of
our lives;

Assure us, Loving God, that you watch over us in
times of heartbreak and hope, and sustain us with
compassion and care;

Teach us to rely on the knowledge that you listen
and hear all our prayers in the name of Jesus
Christ our Saviour. Amen

Fear of the Future Reading : Psalm 118:1-9

Eternally faithful God; Change surrounds our lives
Seasons change; Families change;
Relationships change

Change excites us with new possibilities and also
threatens and frightens us and highlights our
insecurities.

Remind us, in the midst of the future which we
cannot control or predict, of your presence with
us always, your persistent love and your grace
which are able to transform all circumstances and
challenges.

Keep us from being intimidated by the unknown
ahead of us,

Strengthen our grip on your promises,
Renew our determination to live guided by your
love in the service of Jesus in whose name we
pray. Amen

Facing Illness Reading : Psalm 20:1-5

In the midst of our distress and anxiety about the future and our health, we come to you, O God. Assure us of the skill of medical experts and the advances in science which aid the human condition.

Encourage us to rely on the support lavished upon us by those who love and care for us.

Make us confident that your love is with us in every path of life, rough or smooth.

In our weakness make us aware of your power enabling us to face uncertainty, knowing we are sustained by your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Unfairness Reading : Psalm 43

Father God, the unseen listener on all conversations. You know the predicament that faces us. We may be feeling that life is unjust, let down by people and/or circumstances. For the moment we cannot see a way through all this, no one will vindicate us or take up our cause.

Help us to know that you are our God and no matter how much we may feel abandoned by you, you are still our stronghold and our shelter.

Remind us to put our trust in you, for you will come to help in your good time. In Jesus' name.

Amen

Patience Reading : Psalm 33:34 to end

We seem to have life planned, we have a goal, we have the resources we need, the timescale worked out, the destination is in sight.

But sometimes our road is blocked, illness, accident, change of circumstances stop us in our tracks. At these times we despair. Help us to acknowledge the waiting time in wanting.

So, Lord, help us to take time to listen, to discern, to wait in hope for you. For in you we can achieve what you want for us if we just wait, and our patience shall surely be rewarded.

In Christ's name. Amen

New opportunities Reading : Psalm 1:1-3

Father God, we are grateful at the news of new possibilities that are to come [name]'s way. We are grateful that this opportunity has arisen and give thanks for it.

Help [name] to use all avenues that are opening up; to avoid anything that might come in the way of its progress; continue serving you and others wherever possible.

May we not fear what the future might hold but trusting in you and depending on your refreshing spirit know that the future is safe for those who put their trust in you.

In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

Faith issues Reading : Psalm 4:1-4

Lord, it is so hard to keep the faith when things around us are going wrong. You know what is causing us pain, making us question our faith, allowing us to doubt you.

We call on you and seem to get no answer; praying becomes difficult and at times pointless; the trust we had in you seems to be no longer there.

Help us to realise that while the answer to our prayers seems afar off, may we come to know that in your good time you will answer us and relieve us of the troubles that beset us. Amen

Seeking Forgiveness

Reading : Psalm 51:1-4,7-12, 17

Father, how easy it is to slip up, the occasional half-truth, the quick denial, the cruel act. When we do wrong, and are found out, we just want things to be put right again.

Though it may be hard to confess, help us to be sorry for what we did, to seek to make amends where we can and may we show true contrition for our actions.

Create in us a clean heart, and by your grace renew us, that we may return to your presence, refreshed, renewed and washed clean of past offences. Amen

Seeking Contentment

Reading : Psalm 16:1-2, 5-end

Father, to each of us is given the gift of life. For some things seem to run smoothly; others, it can seem like one disaster after another.

The truth is that no one has a life that runs smoothly all the time. So help us to be content with what we have in life, to grasp the opportunities that arise, to hold on when troubles beset us, and above all to trust in you for the way ahead

May we give thanks to you for our life and especially for all the good things you put our way. In Christ's name. Amen

Struggles in life Reading : Psalm 142

Father, life can be a struggle. When we think we have it all worked out, something comes along to wreck our plans.

As we face trouble today, may we not fear to appeal to you, to pour out our complaint before you. The way ahead may seem unclear, there may be other things to complicate the journey, it may seem no one is willing to listen or to help. Remind us again that you have a plan to rescue all who find themselves struggling. The plan is not visible yet. Grant the patience, deliverance and peace required to wait for you. Amen

God's Constancy Reading : Psalm 136:1-5

Lord God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bless you.

Ever present, God, we know that we come with complete freedom and draw near to you.

Clear our thoughts and souls of all that separates us from you because you are our life's constant the standard against whom we measure ourselves the example with whom we discover ourselves the encouragement from whom we discover that your love lasts for ever.

so that we may praise your name.

Teach us this truth that whatever our circumstances you remain infinite, eternal and unchangeable.

One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

God's Protection Reading : Psalm 139:1-12

Creator God, you made us human. You made us in your own image. You breathed life into us.

We praise your name because our weakness and fragility underpins our prayer

Following Christ's example we bring our troubles and vulnerabilities to you longing discover your resilient strength:

to support us

to protect us

to renew us

to remake us

to inspire us

And remind us that we're like Jesus' friends when they asked him to 'Teach us to Pray'.

Our Father, bless us with assurance that, in all the uncertainties of our lives, we never walk alone.

Accept our Prayers through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Faith Reading : Psalm 86:1-5

You are immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes.

We bring our prayer in gratitude and with praise because you have given us the gift of faith in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we offer times when life has been good. Faith easy.

troubling. Faith uncertain.

difficult. Faith challenging.

dark. Faith questioning.

Keep assuring us, though our faith experience may ebb and flow like an ocean tide, that Jesus who is the Author and Finisher of our Faith is always listening, always guarding, always kind, always forgiving, always listening to our payers and pleadings. In his name. Amen

Love Reading : Psalm 33:1-5

Eternal God, you are the ultimate lover of truth and justice.

We bless you for your love. Human, we cannot fully grasp the Gospel truth - you loved the world so much that you gave us your Son in whose footsteps we are invited to follow.

Sometimes we follow Jesus with strides of love-filled confidence and with a song in our souls but we recognise other times when we follow Jesus with dragging footsteps and an uncertainty which diminishes our discipleship.

But your love remains recreating and re-energising for our service of Christ and his Church.

Fill us, we pray, with your love in Christ's name.

Amen

Hope Reading : Psalm 27:1-4

God our light and our salvation we bless you for Christ Jesus the great Shepherd of the sheep who inspires a hope in us which is beyond words.

Even so, there are times when we feel overwhelmed, bruised and battered by the gloom of day to day living, anxieties which ensnare, worries which shroud our lives.

Light dims. Hope evaporates.

Remind us that with Christ's we are never alone and never without hope.

Encourage to accept Christ's offered hand.

Assure us that Christ's strength is our strength, Christ's hope our hope every day and daily until we dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In Christ's name. Amen

Joy

Reading : Psalm 126

Loving God, we worship you with praise, prayer,
music, Word, Sacrament, each a gift which
sustains and renews our discipleship day by day.
Teach us to count our blessings. Lift us, we pray,
from our times of struggle and tears.

We ask that your Spirit would use our all life
experiences to nurture us with new insights,
new understanding, new energy,
which restores our joy.

Encircle us in that joy-filled happiness and
contentment which encourages us in our service
for Christ and his Church and fill us to overflowing
with songs which tell of our joy in the Lord.
In whose name we offer our prayer. Amen

Peace

Reading : Psalm 91:1-2

God our refuge and protector we praise your
name.

Safe in your care we know you as a trusted parent
and a loyal friend. We live in your peace.

Thank you for the privilege of knowing your peace
is a gift for our task discipleship as we take Christ
and his Mission to the world.

May your peace and Jesus' integrity be with us in
all we think and say and do in our work for
Christ's Kingdom.

Wherever our footsteps take us, teach us to trust
you, assured that the love of Christ is with us and
your Peace is on us.

In Christ's name. Amen

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