

Some Music, Readings and Prayers to Reflect upon during the Coronavirus Epidemic...

Some of us have found it really special in our present circumstances to read Psalm 121 and say The Lord's Prayer at 11am every morning. At a time when we can't join together for worship and our usual church activities, doing this has helped give us a sense of connectedness with each other, and reassurance that we are not on our own....

In addition to the Bible Reading and Prayer, some further prayers and music have been added below. These are offered on the basis that you can continue to read the Psalm and say The Lord's Prayer as at present; or combine these with as many, or few, of the additional 'extras' – whatever works best for you....

You may wish to Light a Candle

in memory of:
all who have died,
those who are unwell,
and for all who grieve.

*Lord, we ask that you let your light shine into the hearts of all,
help us all to feel your Holy presence,
as we pray:*

Lord God, in a world that is full of pain and shock, hold us all close to you. So many lives have been cut short, so many fighting to breathe, so many mourn, and know the heartbreak of loss.... through your Holy Spirit, bring comfort and a deep peace upon Your world. A comfort with your love, wrap those who suffer in your strong embrace sheltering them from the storm – O Lord envelop us all in your tender loving care.

Amen

Psalm 121 (from the New International Version of the Bible)

I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip –
he who watches over you will not slumber:
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you -
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm -
he will watch over your life,
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and for evermore.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed by 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.
For ever.
Amen

HYMN 691

The Church of Scotland Hymnary – *Music adapted from the symphonic poem Finlandia by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)*

*Katharina Analia Dorothea von Schlegel (b. 1697)
translated Jane Laurie Borthwick (1813-1897)*

*YouTube –
Fields of Plenty/Be Still my Soul
Amy Grant,
17 June 2009
(finishing with a short poem based on Psalm 37:4)*

'Be Still My Soul'

Be still my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change, he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice, who ruled them while he lived below.

Be still my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
who comes to soothe your sorrows, calm your fears.

then you shall better know his love, his heart,

Be still, my soul: for Jesus can repay
from his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be for ever with the Lord,
when disappointments, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joy restored.

Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

A Coronavirus Prayer

(previously included in one of Rev Robert's Services)

Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command, the sick were made well, come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick, with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fears, which prevents nations from working together, and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Lord Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers, and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions that will help prepare for, or prevent, future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Lord Jesus Christ heal us...

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour

Amen

Prayer for our Church

(Prayers are particularly appreciated at this time, as with Daviot & Dunlichity we seek to discern the way forward for our Churches, according to God's will, in preparation for a return to the Appeal Process, once the present lockdown ends...)

Gracious Lord, We thank you for all that is good in our situation:

- For the fellowship
- And the caring for each other
- And our love for you.
- For the privilege of reaching out to others in this place with the Good News of the Gospel.
- For all the help and support given by our Interim Moderator
- Helped by all the guest preachers who came each week to help us achieve this.
- Not forgetting the organists.

Lord, we thank you for each and every one of them, and we thank you, too, for all the people in our congregation.

Help us to be good stewards of the resources we have, even if these are less than they were. Help us to do our bit in keeping the Church going by continuing to love and serve you, and by keeping alive the faith.

Lord, at this time our future as a congregation seems very uncertain, but remembering that we are a people of hope, who need to declare and model good news in difficult times - we pray that you will:-
Keep us faithful and focussed; give us the strength and the ability to continue to work and serve you in this place; and keep us from becoming discouraged.

Help us to hear your voice over all the doubts and worry, and to seek your will for our situation with humility.

- Help us to listen
- To genuinely seek to discern your will for us and our situation.

□ To be faithful, and obedient.

And help all involved to genuinely work out, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what it is we need to do, in this place, and throughout the Presbytery, to keep the Gospel alive to your glory.

Please bless, guard, guide, lead, direct and protect us all during this process.

May we feel your healing presence close beside us until we arrive at the point of agreement you wish to see our congregations, and the Presbytery reach together. And when we get to this point, please give us the grace to accept your healing reconciliation, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

HYMN 796
in the Church of Scotland Hymnary
from Numbers 6: 24

You Tube,
The Lord Bless You and Keep You - Philippine Madrigal Singers [HQ]
20 July 2011

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.