

Collect

O Lord, forgive the transgressions of your people: and by your goodness release us from the snare of sin, in which, by our frailty, we have been caught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Easy-to-Read Version Be Ready for the Lord's Coming

Now, brothers and sisters, we don't need to write to you about times and dates. You know very well that the day when the Lord comes again will be a surprise, like a thief who comes at night. People will say, "We have peace and we are safe." At that time destruction will come to them quickly, like the pains of a woman giving birth. And those people will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not living in darkness. And so that day will not surprise you like a thief. You are all people who belong to the light. You belong to the day. We don't belong to the night or to darkness. So we should not be like other people. We should not be sleeping. We should be awake and have self-control. People who sleep, sleep at night. People who drink too much, drink at night. But we belong to the day, so we should control ourselves. We should wear faith and love to protect us. And the hope of salvation should be our helmet. God did not choose us to suffer his anger. God chose us to have salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that we can live together with him. It is not important if we are alive or dead when Jesus comes. So encourage each other and help each other grow stronger in faith, just as you are already doing.

Matthew 25:14-30 Easy-to-Read Version A Story About Three Servants

"At that time God's kingdom will also be like a man leaving home to travel to another place for a visit. Before he left, he talked with his servants. He told his servants to take care of his things while he was gone. He decided how much each servant would be able to care for. The man gave one servant five bags of money. He gave another servant two bags. And he gave a third servant one bag. Then he left. The servant who got five bags went quickly to invest the money. Those five bags of money earned five more. It was the same with the servant who had two bags. That servant invested the money and earned two more. But the servant who got one bag of money went away and dug a hole in the ground. Then he hid his master's money in the hole. "After a long time the master came home. He asked the servants what they did with his money. The servant who got five bags brought that amount and five more bags of money to the master. The servant said, 'Master, you trusted me to care for five bags of money. So I used them to earn five more.' "The master answered, 'You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with that small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and share my happiness with me.' "Then the servant who got two bags of money came to the master. The servant said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of money to care for. So I used your two bags to earn two more.' "The master answered, 'You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with a small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and share my happiness with me.'

"Then the servant who got one bag of money came to the master. The servant said, 'Master, I knew you were a very hard man. You harvest what you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not put any seed. So I was afraid. I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the one bag of money you gave me.' "The master answered, 'You are a bad and lazy servant! You say you knew that I harvest what I did not plant and that I gather crops where I did not put any seed. So you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came home, I would get my money back. And I would also get the interest that my money earned.' "So the master told his other servants, 'Take the one bag of money from that servant and give it to the servant who has ten bags. Everyone who uses what they have will get more. They will have much more than they need. But people who do not use what they have will have everything taken away from them.' Then the master said, 'Throw that useless servant outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.'

Karen's reflection for 15th November 2020

I used to be a chemist in a lab and worked with a chap called Alan. He had great knowledge about how to operate and maintain one of the instruments we had. It was very expensive equipment and could analyse very low levels of metals in samples that other instruments couldn't.

Alan didn't train anybody else to use this instrument except one other person who was only allowed to use it when Alan was on leave. One week, when Alan was off, my other colleague had to go out of the lab to do some field work. An important client wanted some analysis doing that could only be done on this one instrument. The call came through and we had to say that it couldn't be done until the next week. I was called through to the office to explain to the boss why we had refused to do the work. I explained that there was nobody trained to do it.

As you can image the boss wasn't very happy with this and, like the third servant in the parable who was given the chance to shine but buried his talents, Alan failed to do his job. It wasn't long before Alan was removed from the post. This was the price he paid for neglecting his work and abusing his power.

This parable is about using all that God has given us and about God returning to see what his people have done with these gifts. The staff were given bags of money and these were by no means small amounts of money. They receive an amount according to their ability and the master goes away leaving them in charge. On his return, two of the staff have done their best and one hasn't done anything with his gifts.

Being given such gifts carries responsibilities and is a privilege. Each of us has been given gifts and it is our task to find out what they are and how we should use them. Sometimes this may be easy, you may have an obvious talent for music, for listening, for cooking. Sometimes it may be difficult to discover what we are being called to do. Sometimes we may be clear about our particular gifts but we might not have the opportunity to use them.

However, each of us can use our primary gifts of living as wise, loving human beings, celebrating God's love, forgiving, praying, seeking justice, acting with courage and common sense, being caring and waiting patiently for God's will to be done.

God has given gifts to each of us from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you. Amen.



Intercessions for 15th November 2020

Loving God, we offer our prayers now for all people and their situations; for lives that are going through upheaval or distress; for circumstances which only you can change.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, remembering those Christians in countries where their beliefs make them vulnerable and in danger. Uphold and strengthen all who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for hostages and their families and loved ones from whom they are separated. We give thanks for this church and the A7 Centre of Mission. May we point the way to God's Kingdom in our community and welcome all who are seeking through our doors.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Creator God, we pray for peace in the world, for understanding between nations, religions and factions and for an end to old scores which remain unsettled. We pray for the peoples of the Middle East and for Christian, Muslim and Jew, that they may live alongside one another in mutual respect and harmony. We pray too for fair shares and fair trade and that the talents of the workers of the world are fairly rewarded.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the United States of America and we ask that you would give the New President-Elect wisdom beyond his own understanding and the courage to choose the right path no matter how narrow the gate especially at this difficult time of the ongoing Pandemic.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Father God, we thank you for the gifts, talents and abilities you have given each of us praying that a deeper understanding of how those talents can be used and shared within our churches and the community. Set us free from the fear that makes us inward looking. Give us a renewed generosity with our time, our talents and our treasure. Give us a renewed concern for those who are struggling in our congregations and our communities. Give us a renewed vision of what it is for us to be your church, in this place, at this time.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Forgiving God, send your healing forgiveness to all who are suffering feelings of guilt, shame or regret. Help to mend broken relationships. Be with all who feel that, through advancing years or failing health, they cannot enjoy life as it used to be. May those who are learning to live a new pattern of life feel that you are walking beside them. We especially pray for the sick and suffering and give you thanks for those who are on the road to recovery. We pray for those in Care Homes and their loved ones who feel cut off from each other while visiting is not allowed at this time.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember those who have died and for those who are bereaved. May the light of Christ which eternally shines bring hope to their dark places. We especially pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time.

Gracious God, forgive us when we only turn to you when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

Amen



As part of the ongoing response to the Coronavirus pandemic the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) will be broadcasting video coverage of Eucharistic services via its website, social media channels and YouTube channel. The web page is located at www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship



For those who are not online the Archbishop of Canterbury has set up a Freephone Daily Hope service of hymns, prayers and readings. It is available 24 hours a day on 0800 8048044

TV and Radio Sunday Worship: BBC RADIO SCOTLAND – 7.30am Acts of Worship BBC RADIO 4 - 08:10am Morning Worship BBC 1 TV – 1.15pm Songs of Praise BBC Radio 4 Longwave – 9.45am Morning Service (Mon-Fri)

Join Pip this week at Holy Trinity at <https://www.holytrinitymelrose.org/> and click on the link - Holy Trinity YouTube channel. 11.00am <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJkxEgnglnze4SeN4I54Ecw>

St John's Selkirk now has their weekly Sunday services on their YouTube channel, with several (different) familiar voices each week, music, inspirational quotes and images

at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9ITNAH6VHZkqM0NiH6Vt9w> available from 10am each Sunday morning..



11am to 11:30 every Wednesday morning.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87979280424?pwd=UEJzRXk0UFpVcnJuaUVZTzJvaE92UT09>

Meeting ID: 879 7928 0424 Password: 023545 Host: Tim Hatton



Bible Studies hosted on Zoom - all are welcome. Wednesday 7:30pm & Thursday 10:30am hosted by John Marsden Follow this

link <https://zoom.us/j/7538094986?pwd=Q0x4YVvk2b3Y5eEt0VkoXS0ZWVWxGUT09>

or use this information to open a Zoom meeting: Meeting ID: 753 809 4986 Password: 751474



Home Communion is only available to those people can't come out or get to church for self-isolation reasons. Please book through Sheena then Simon will contact to arrange a time.

Reserved Sacrament is still suspended until further notice due to corona virus restrictions.



Please note there will be no Thursday Communion service in St Peter's church on 19th November

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT

Priest in charge of St Peter's, St John's & St Cuthbert's Rev Simon Cake 07710523856
cakekands@btinternet.com

St Peter's pastoral support contact Monica Reynolds 01896 757114
monica@tempelstowe.com

St Peter's prayer support Muriel Lounsbach 01896 831418
gordon.lounsbach@btinternet.com

Tim Hatton (A7 Church Army) 07784872307 tim.w.hatton@gmail.com

St Cuthbert's pastoral and prayer contact Sue Crozier 01450 376499
susancrozier17@yahoo.co.uk

St John's pastoral and prayer contact Margaret Moyes mmoyes2@gmail.com



Opening for communal worship from September.

St John's still has no date for getting back to using the church.

St Peter's 10.30am services on 1st and 4th Sundays will be Communion with Simon or other clergy. 2nd & 3rd Sundays will be Service of the Word. Thursday mornings will be a Said Communion service.

St Cuthbert's 10.30am services on 2nd & 3rd Sundays will be Communion, 1st & 4th Sundays Service of the Word. Wednesdays at 11.00am will be Said Holy Communion. Please remember to bring a face covering to wear unless you have health issues and the service booklet and newsletter which contains the readings etc for the week.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR THE SERVICE AT EITHER ST CUTHBERT'S OR ST PETER'S PLEASE BE READY TO FILL IN THE FORM FOR GOVERNMENT TRACK AND PROTECT. YOU NO LONGER NEED TO LET SHEENA KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND

Spiritual Communion

Here is a prayer that can be used at 10.30 on Sundays when Simon will be celebrating the Eucharist

For an Act of spiritual Communion, the following prayer -

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.



Open Invitation from the Church of Scotland This year's Denis Duncan Lecture is on the evening of Monday 16th November, from 7pm – 9pm. This free event is online and the speaker will be Ruth Harvey, Leader of the Iona Community. The title for the lecture is "Where healing and reconciliation meet". You will also hear from Gillian Straine, Director of the Guild of Health & St. Raphael, as she shares about their new initiative "Healthy Healing Hubs". The

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Martin Fair, will form part of the panel to answer any questions following the lecture. More info and a registration form can be found on: <https://denis-duncan-lecture-2020.eventbrite.co.uk/>

Galashiels Fellowship of Churches

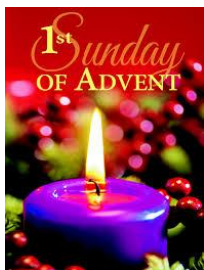


Meeting 2.0 pm Nov 24th 2020, by Zoom courtesy of John Marsden
[https://zoom.us/j/7538094986?](https://zoom.us/j/7538094986?pwd=Q0x4YVYk2b3Y5eEt0VkoXS0ZWVWxGUT09)

[pwd=Q0x4YVYk2b3Y5eEt0VkoXS0ZWVWxGUT09](https://zoom.us/j/7538094986?pwd=Q0x4YVYk2b3Y5eEt0VkoXS0ZWVWxGUT09)

If you have any technical concerns about using Zoom don't hesitate to phone John on 0753 809 4986.

He is happy to help. Zoom details: Meeting ID: 753 809 4986 Password: 751474



This year the First Sunday of Advent fall on a 5th Sunday, 29th November and will be held live from St Cuthbert's.

5 members from each congregation of St John's and St Peter's can be there in person too.

If you wish to attend it will be on a first come first served basis and you need to book with Sheena 01896 751694. Everyone else can attend via Zoom.

Timothy Hatton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: A7 Joint Service: Advent Sunday, 2020 (10:30 actual start)

Time: Nov 29, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 815 5324 6006 Passcode: 765109

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81553246006?pwd=ZmgrLzJ2Z0VXRDYwQIRXZHJtekg1dz09>



I don't know about you but I am fed up with answering my phone to find the recorded message purporting to come from Amazon regarding Prime membership. I get about three of these calls every day. It must be working for them to keep doing it. HANG UP do NOT press 1. All they want is your bank details so that they can steal your money.



Currently there is a doorstep scam where members of the public are being offered COVID-19 tests. Again, these people are wanting your bank details as they are charging for the test they are offering you

If someone knocks on your door offering a COVID-19 test, please alert the police.



Stay home and stay safe. Remember those who have no home as the winter comes.

Matthew 25: 14-30

R E S P O N S A B I L I T I E S Y F
 H F O R W A R D A A I L S H U D D L
 F C M A S T E R M A T T E R S T I D
 V L A A D D I T I O N A L W E A S P
 M C C O T K W S M A L L N V T L C A
 A C C O R D I N G K P E C K T E I R
 I V O Z O R A F A I T H F U L N P A
 G C U X S E R V A N T S W I E T L B
 T N N J O U R N E Y E A W O D S E L
 W X T P S M P O S S E S S I O N S E
 P G S H A R E V A B I L I T I E S E
 R R F Q R E N T R U S T E D H R U S

Find the following words in the puzzle.
 Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

ABILITIES
 ACCORDING
 ACCOUNTS
 ADDITIONAL
 DISCIPLES
 ENTRUSTED
 FAITHFUL

FORWARD
 JOURNEY
 MASTER
 MATTERS
 PARABLE
 POSSESSIONS
 RESPONSABILITIES

SERVANTS
 SETTLED
 SHARE
 SMALL
 TALENTS

OUR MANY TALENTS

