

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR THE TRADES HOUSE OF GLASGOW

Almighty God, the Master of every trade and Father of all industry: send down Thy Holy Spirit upon those engaged in industry and commerce; that unions and management may cherish sound and righteous principles; and that peace and goodwill may triumph and reigh supreme in every business enterprise. Bless, O Lord, the trade of this world, together with all craftsmen who labour with their hands; that their diverse skills may benefit all mankind; and that through the care and dedication of their fingers, we may always prosper from a rich and abundant harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

O Lord our God, who of old didst inspire our forefathers to establish the City of Glasgow as a nucleus of commerce and industry, where docks became many, where factories arose and shipyards prospered, where Tobacco Lords thrived and merchants prospered: we pray Thee to bless all crafts represented by the Trades House of this ancient City; that each may flourish under Thy heavenly providence; and in Thy mercy, grant to captains of commerce and barons of industry within this City, grace to listen patiently, power to see clearly, sense to invest wisely, integrity to deal fairly, and compassion to give charitably; that justice and honesty may roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-falling stream; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PRAYER FOR STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

O Lord God of our Fathers, who in ancient times didst establish our countrymen upon the scattered Kingdom of Strathclyde, and in our own day didst bear witness to the formation from that territory an instrument of civil government: send down Thy Holy Spirit upon all who hold office in that administrative region - upon its Convenor and Vice-Convenor; upon the chairmen of all committees and sub-committees; and upon all elected and appointed representatives - that fulfilling their duties in Thy favour and in Thy fear, they may exercise with charity those responsibilities entrusted to them, ever proving themselves holy and upright in Thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION IN COMMEMORATION OF DAVID LIVINGSTONE

Almighty and eternal God, who hast established Thy universal Church as the body of the living Christ within this dark and sinful world; we pray for all who this day preach Thy Word in foreign lands; that their zeal being inspired by the fervent evangelistic, missionary and self-sacrificing spirit of Thy faithful servant David Livingstone - whom Thou didst call from Scottish shores to confess Thy name in distant places - they may increasingly gather the hungry multitude into Thy fold, and feed them daily with the grace of Him who is the Bread of life, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord our God, whose appointed ambassador David Livingstone didst bring Thy light to the darkest continent of Africa, and to the African race; grant that the world, by building barriers of race, colour and creed, never separates itself from Thee; and so we pray for an end to racial discrimination both in that land and throughout the world; that the pillars of apartheid and embittered prejudice may fall to dust; and that we may joyfully acclaim the members of every race as fellow-heirs of Thy Kingdom, and as men like us, fashioned after Thine own likeness.

In remembrance of the valiant Livingstonian spirit of pioneering, discovery and adventure, we now commend unto Thy loving care and protection all geologists, archaeologists, explorers and geographers; that their discoveries may prosper with Thy blessing, and open up for us all new avenues of knowledge, fertile pastures of learning and richer opportunities in the natural world; and so may they always recognise their human reason as Thy gift, to be used only for Thy glory, and for the wellbeing of all Thy children.

O loving heavenly Father, who didst commission David Livingstone not only to seek lost souls, but to heal bodies broken by disease; we pray Thee to bless the work of doctors, nurses, medical personnel and all who minister to the sick, especially in this City (Town/Village/Community), that they may always shine as beacons in the darkest hours of fear, and use their skill to heal the wounds of our trouble-worn humanity. In Thy mercy, O Lord, remember all who are ill in body, troubled in mind, weak in faith and spirit, or crying in tears of grief; that Thy Holy Spirit may comfort them; that the light of Thy face may shine upon them; and that Thy peace may ever be with them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, from whom David Livingstone found his faith, his life, and

his peace; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

AMEN.

These four petitions for part of the general intercessions offered at the David Livingstone Memorial Service, held in Glasgow Cathedral on 25th March, 1984, and are structured according to his career as missionary, pioneer, geographer and doctor. Though specifically prepared for a service of commemoration in his honour, these intercessory prayers are an example of what might be attempted, either upon similar occasions, or when a reference to Livingstone's life and work is deemed desirable and appropriate.

PRAYER FOR ENGINEERS AND CRAFTSMEN

O Lord our God, who alone art Architect and Author of the wondrous universe, who holdest in the palm of Thy mighty hand the mysterious mechanics of all creation: mercifully grant that the skills of all architects, engineers and craftsmen may by Thy grace transform this broken world into a safer and more peaceful place; and so we pray Thee that the calculations of their instruments, the research of their studies, the plans of their drawing-boards and the engineered constructions of their own invention may all assist in bringing systematic order from our earthly chaos, bequeathing to all mankind a highly advanced but intimately God-fearing society; through Jesus Christ our Lord who, by His death upon the monument of Calvary, hast engineered our eternal redemption, constructed the bridges of reconciliation, and planned the highway to our heavenly dwelling, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

AMEN.

W Gerald Jones
Assistant
Glasgow Cathedral

MANNA

The Sunday newspaper from Methil Parish Church
A weekly feast of worship, thought and information

Editor: Rev. Alastair H. Gray M.A.; B.D.

Sunday 2nd December 1984

Issue no.154

From the Minister . . .

The Church is engulfed in crisis—that is an indisputable fact. Our nation is in disrepair—and the Church is little better. Maybe worse. But there is a way ahead.

Given the *essential* background of prayer and repentance as a base, what the Church is in desperate need of today is 'a small fleet of ships'.

Discipleship: The first 'ship' is discipleship. Here the issue is not the size of the congregation. The real question is how many of our congregation—be it twelve or twelve hundred—are real *disciples* of Jesus Christ?

A disciple is a learner who *never stops* being a learner. *Never* takes off his L-plates. *Never* gets into a rut.

Leadership: The second 'ship' on my list is leadership. The New Testament knows nothing of the single leaders of a local church—like the *minister*. Always it is a *shared* leadership.

Stewardship: We need to understand, as disciples of Christ, that *everything* belongs to the Lord. The *whole* of my bank balance, the *whole* of my possessions—*everything* in my house. Everything belongs to the Lord; not just 10 per cent. We are simply trusted with these things.

Worship: Pentecost didn't start with preaching. But with praise. A praising community preaches to answer questions raised by praise. Of course, true worship means so much *more* than just singing hymns and choruses.

The New Testament speaks of at least three kinds of sacrifice. The sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13: 15); the sacrifice of our possessions (Hebrews 13: 16); and the sacrifice of our bodies (Romans 12: 1). Worship involves all three.

Lordship: Lastly there is Lordship. Those in evangelical circles in the church need to rediscover what the Lordship of Christ really means. So often, though we may hail Jesus as Lord, it is we who make the decisions.

Duncan Campbell once said that the Kingdom of God will come, not when the churches are filled with people, but when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who *obey* Him.

Prayer Fellowship

Our Friends:

Merciful God, may your presence be with those we pray for, through the silent hours of the night and the busy hours of the day. In their weakness may they find strength, in uncertainty may they find guidance.

Worship Today

In the Christian Year: 1st
Sunday in Advent

10.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Welcome
with music: Kings' College
Choir, Cambridge- Songs for Advent

11 a.m. Monthly Family Service

1. Gathering Together:

Welcome: Isaiah 64:1-2

Opening Hymn 69 "Come, let us
to the Lord our God"

Prayer and Lord's Prayer

2. The Gospel in Sign:

Baptism

Children's talk- Holly wreaths

3. The Gospel in Song:

Sunday School/Tapes/Choir

Hymn 318 "Mine eyes have seen
the glory"

4. The Gospel in drama:

Dialogue, using a set of slides

- "Why bother with Jesus?"

Hymn 545 "Far off I see the

goal" (tune: Monks Gate 443)

5. The Gospel in Word:

Bible Reading : (Matthew 27:50-4

Sermon (Joel 2:12-17

6. Our Response:

Offering

Prayer

Closing Hymn 507 "Father Eter-

na

Benediction and Three-fold Amen
Tea and coffee served in hall.

6.30 p.m. Evening service

Bible Welcome : Psalm 50:23

Hymn 160 "Hark the glad sound"

Bible Promise : John 10:9

Prayer

Hymn 147 "Thou didst leave thy
Throne"(R.H.)

Reading

Offering and dedication

Hymn 58 "When the morning starts
were singing"(R.H.)

Sermon

Hymn 164 "Tell out my soul,"
(tune: Woodlands 440)

Benediction

7.15 p.m. Prayer Fellowship
in the Session Room.

Morning Sermon Summary

Torn heavens, curtains & hearts

A tear in a piece of cloth, a
page or something made of
plastic is usually a cause for
sadness. In the Bible, we can
read of 3 tearings which led
ultimately to rejoicing.

1) Torn heavens (Isaiah 64:1-
"Why don't you tear the sky
and come down?") Here is the
cry for God to come down to
man, an appeal which was
answered at Christmas.

2) A Torn veil (Matthew 27:51-
"Then the curtain hanging in
the temple was torn in two")
Here is the glorious outcome
of Christ's death on the cross.
A new way is opened up into
God's presence. This is the
reunion which inspires all
coming together of family and
friends.

3) Torn hearts (Joel 2:13-
"Let your broken hearts show
your sorrow, tearing your
clothes in not enough")
Here is the link between the
first two tearings. Before
we can respond to God's offer
of mercy, there must be true
repentance and faith. Tearing
clothes used to be a sign of
human loss or physical
distress, but true repentance
was to be even more than that.
It was to be a turning back
to God, returning to his ways.

Evening Sermon Summary

1 Samuel 16, David is chosen as king

Here is the Old Testament story of a wise man's visit to Bethlehem, not three kings, but the wise judge Samuel.

1) Overlooked by brothers (v.6-11)

They considered him insignificant, looked down on him and did not invite him to come to the feast. They judged on appearances, possession, position, but not on inner qualities and unseen strengths. Here is a picture of Jesus overlooked at his birth and rejected by his own people as their Messiah. Here also is a challenge to us not to overlook our coming feast of Communion

2) Prepared by God (v.12)

Out in the fields and on the hills, David was being trained in the ways of leadership: he was learning care, compassion, survival, protection, bravery, courage, worship, music, appreciation, salvation, eternity. Here is a picture of Jesus prepared for his own ministry. Here also is a challenge to us to prepare for the coming celebration of Communion.

3) Anointed by Samuel (v.13)

Keenly interested in youth, Samuel reserved his God-inspired choice of king for young David. The anointing oil poured over him was a sign of God's Holy Spirit and the setting apart for this task. Here is a picture of Jesus prepared for what lay ahead of him. Here also is a challenge to us not only to have God's Spirit within us but also poured out upon us as we dedicate ourselves to his service again tonight.

Children's Talk:

HOLLY IN THE HEART

We use a lot of holly at Christmas, not just because of its evergreen leaves and pretty berries, but because of its significance. The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns which Jesus wore at his crucifixion. The red berries remind us of the drops of blood which fell from the cross. The holly tree casts the shadow of calvary across the scene of Bethlehem. Look at a holly wreath over a doorway. It is in the shape of a heart to remind us of God's forgiving love which is at the heart of both Christmas and Easter.

At Christmas time in London the streets are especially busy. Drivers get impatient and irritated with delays. In one traffic jam there was a lorry decorated with holly round its front lights, bumper, radiator grill and engine cover. The lorry driver was shouting and swearing at a taxi in front of him. The taxi driver shouted back, "What's the use of holly on your bonnet if you haven't got holly in your heart?"

At Christmas time, we need an inner change of heart, not just a different outward appearance. Other people will see the "Holly on the bonnet", but only God will see if we have "Holly in the heart".

The gospel in drama: "Why bother with Jesus?"

- bother because he is real
- bother because he is the ideal
- bother because he is the best
- bother because of his offer of welcome.
- bother because of his claims
- bother because he loves you
- bother because he rose again
- bother because he changes life
- bother because you need him
- bother because he calls you

Our Life Together

1. We welcome everyone to our services today. May this season of advent help us all to prepare for Christmas
2. 5 p.m. today short service in Byron Court
3. 6.30 p.m. tonight. evening service- Preparation for Communion. All are very welcome.
4. 7.15 p.m. Prayer fellowship in the session room. Give any requests for prayer to Mr Gray after the service this morning, or bring them with you tonight.
5. Monday 7.30 p.m. Young Women's Group. Mr Pairman speaking about Jewelry.
6. Wednesday 6.30 p.m. Vestry half-hour to arrange weddings, baptisms etc.
7. Wednesday 7 p.m. Woman's Guild Carol Night and Financial report.
8. Saturday 11 a.m. Choir practice in the manse.
9. Next Sunday 's Communion services are at usual times 11 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. for thanksgiving and short Communion at 7.15 p.m.
10. Monday 10th 7 p.m. Kirk Session
11. Last week's offering £209 in morning, £36 in evening
12. The Woman's Guild Christmas Fayre raised £155 Many thanks to all who helped.
13. Elders card are in the vestibule pigeon holes.
14. We would like as many of the Fabric fund boxes in for the end of the year as possible to meet flood and storm damage repair bills. They may be returned via elders or visitors or brought to church over the next 2/3 Sundays. They can then be collected from the vestibule table.
15. Copies of the December issue of "Insight" Which Mr Gray edits, are available on the vestibule booktable, priced 5p. It contains a wide range of Bible teaching and church news, and special Christmas items.

Doets' Corner

A King for Israel (1 Samuel 16:11-13)

Brenda Smith

I came running,
wiping the sheep's dung from my feet
and leaning my staff against the doorpost.

I came,
running my fingers through tangled hair,
smoothing down my tunic,
and bursting into the presence of my elders.

In momentary confusion
I saw an old man's eyes brighten
and my brothers' darken.

As oil ran from my beardless chin,
tears spilled from the creases in the old man's face,
and stillness filled up the room.