

St. John's and St. Columba's Strathpray

Let us pray for one another and for the world ...

Sunday November 17th Pentecost 26.

'And when you hear of wars and insurrections beginning, don't panic. True, wars must come, but the end won't follow immediately - for nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and famines in many lands, and epidemics, and terrifying things happening in the heavens.' **Luke 21:9-12.**

'We are living in the end time! This does not mean that creation will soon come to its end, but it does mean that all the signs of the end of time that Jesus mentions are already with us: wars and revolutions, conflicts between nations and between kingdoms, earthquakes, plagues, famines, and persecutions. Jesus describes the events of our world as announcements that this world is not our final dwelling place, but that the Son of Man will come to bring us our full freedom. "When these things begin to take place," Jesus says, "stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand." (Luke 21:28) The terrible events surrounding us must be lived as ways to make us ready for our final liberation.' (Henri Nouwen – *Bread For The Journey*)
Alone with none but Thee, my God, I journey on my way. What need I fear, when Thou art near, O King of night and day? More safe I am within Thy hand than if a host did round me stand. Amen. (St. Columba)



We pray for the congregation of St. Ninian, Glenurquhart: Rt. Rev. Rob Hardwick.

Monday November 18th

'God had told Abram, "Leave your own country behind you, and your own people, and go to the land I will guide you to. If you do, I will cause you to become the father of a great nation; I will bless you and make your name famous, and you will be a blessing to many others.' **Genesis 12:1-2.**

'The wandering saints of the early Celtic period set out in their coracles, fragile craft of hides stretched over a wooden frame, without oars, to go wherever the Spirit might take them. They knew only that the goal and the end of their voyaging was to come to the place of their resurrection. We too must travel light, in every sense of that word, if we wish to travel with the man who had nowhere to lay his head and who said to his followers, "Come, follow me" – to wherever that might happen to lead. This is an inward journey for love, the love of Christ.' (Esther de Waal – *Lost In Wonder*)

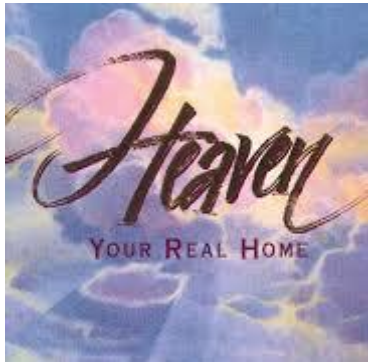


Pilgrim God, bless us with courage where our way is fraught with danger. Bless us with good companions, where the way demands a common cause. Bless us with good humour, for we cannot travel lightly when weighed down with too much solemnity. Bless us with humility, to learn from those around us. Bless us with decisiveness, when we have to move quickly. Bless our lazy moments, when we need to stretch our limbs for the journey. Bless us, lead us, love us and bring us home, bearing the gospel of life. Amen.

We pray for those bringing up their children as lone parents.

Tuesday November 19th

'Since you became alive again, so to speak, when Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of honour and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts; don't spend your time worrying about things down here. You should have as little desire for this world as a dead person does. Your real life is in heaven with Christ and God.' Colossians 3:1-3.



'This is the reason why we have no ease of heart or soul, for we are seeking our rest in trivial things, which cannot satisfy, and not seeking to know God, almighty, all-wise, all-good. He is true rest.' (Julian of Norwich)

Un-crowd my heart, O God, until silence speaks in your still, small voice; turn me from the hearing of words, and the making of words, and the confusion of much speaking, to listening, waiting, stillness, silence. Amen. We pray for those suffering from climate-based disasters.

Wednesday November 20th

'The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God's laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God's abounding grace forgiving us.' Romans 5:20.

'Ask people what they must do to get to heaven and most reply, "Be good." Jesus' stories contradict that answer. All we must do is cry, "Help!" God welcomes home anyone who will have him and, in fact, has made the first move already. In the parables, Jesus was the shepherd who left the safety of the fold for the dark and dangerous night outside. To his banquet he welcomed tax-collectors and reprobates and whores. He came for the sick and not the well, for the unrighteous and not the righteous.' (Philip Yancey)

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, I hold up all my weakness to your strength, my failure to your faithfulness, my sinfulness to your perfection, my loneliness to your compassion, my little pains to your great agony on the Cross. I pray that you will cleanse me, strengthen me, guide me, so that in all my ways my life may be lived as you would have it lived, without cowardice, and for you alone. Show me how to live in true humility, true contrition, and true love. Amen.

We pray for all who lead and enable Bible Study, fellowship and prayer groups in our churches.

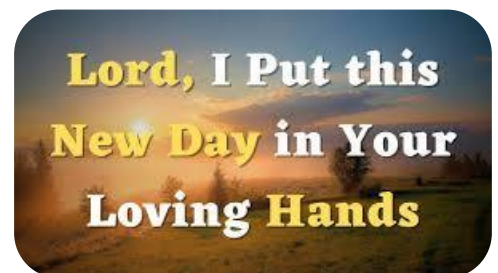
Thursday November 21st

'In him we live and move and have our being.' Acts 17:28.

'To pray is essentially: to come to Jesus and to drink; to come to him as to a friend; to be in communion with him; to remain in his love; to trust him; and to follow him; it is to rest in him. To pray is to cry out to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit, the One who answers the cry, when we cannot go on or when we fall and touch our pain and brokenness. It is to offer all this pain and the pain of the world, with him and in him to the Father.' (Jean Vanier – Treasures of the Heart)

Lord, I offer this day to you, the work I do, the people I meet, the pleasures and the problems, that in everything I may know the love of Christ, and be thankful. Amen.

We pray for pupils and staff in our local schools.



Friday November 22nd

***'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.'* Matthew 5:16.**

'A good friend of mine brought me a small wooden flute as a gift many years ago. It has become one of my treasures. Many times, reflecting upon the flute has helped me to connect my life with God in the busyness of my life and work. More and more I see myself as a flute,



a simple, hollowed-out reed, meant to be an instrument of God's song. It reminds me that others need to hear the melody of God's love and goodness through my life. Such reflections encourage me to be a song of peace and harmony rather than one of dissonance and

distress.' (Joyce Rupp)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace: where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy; for your mercy and your truth's sake. Amen.

We pray for those caught up in the conflict and struggle for power in Sudan.

Saturday November 23rd

*'Life is unpredictable. We can be happy one day and sad the next, rich one day and poor the next, alive one day and dead the next. So who is there to hold on to? Who is there to feel secure with? Who is there to trust at all times? Only Jesus, the Christ. He is our Lord, our shepherd, our rock, our stronghold, our refuge, our brother, our guide and our friend. He came from God to be with us. He died for us, he was raised from the dead to open for us the way to God, and he is seated at God's right hand to welcome us home. With Paul, we must be certain that **"neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor the heights nor the depths, nor any created thing whatsoever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Romans 8:38-39.'*

Spirit of God, you are the stirring in our hearts. You urge us to get going. You prompt us to follow. You encourage us not to give up. You call us to open our minds and hearts to receive your energizing, transforming radiance. Make us receptive so that we will follow your loving movement within our lives. We trust in your powerful presence within us. Amen.

We pray for journalists reporting from places of danger.

*Nothing can
Separate
Us From
the Love
of God*
Romans 8:39

A decorative graphic featuring the text 'Nothing can Separate Us From the Love of God' in a mix of black and red cursive fonts. Below it, 'Romans 8:39' is written in a smaller red font. The text is surrounded by several red roses with green leaves, arranged in a circular pattern.