

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

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

Sunday May 25th Sixth Sunday of Easter.

***'I pray to God Most High for help, and he takes care of me completely!'* Psalm 57:2.**

'Do we ever stop to consider all the different ways God takes care of us?

Each morning He greets us with a fresh sunrise. He fills our day with the whisper of the wind, the ever-changing blue of the skies, and the faces of other people. And each evening He tucks us in by the light of the moon.

His Word speaks to our heart and heals our spirit. His presence shields and protects us. From the oxygen we breathe to the food we eat – heart and mind, body and soul, God takes care of us.

So let's slow down today. Notice all the different ways God provides for us. And then thank Him.' (5 Minutes of Grace)

Holy Father, there is so much You do that I take for granted. Thank

You for taking care of me so completely. Thank You especially for ... Amen.

We pray for the congregation of Courthill Chapel, Kishorn; All Saints Mission, Kinlochewe; Don Grant.



Monday May 26th

***'But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.'* Matthew 19:14-15.**

'Jesus did some pretty amazing and miraculous things in His ministry on earth – like walking on water, stilling storms, raising the dead to life. But He also did some small and beautiful things – like hugging children, weeping with a friend, and having a talk with a woman at a well.

These things may have seemed small to the world, but they were monumental to those children, that friend, and that woman by the well. And they were very big things to God. Is it a blessing to be able to do big things for God, things all the world can see? Absolutely! But it is no less a blessing to do the small things no one but God sees. We might not change the world, but we can change someone's world – and their eternity. What little things can we do today?' (5 Minutes of Grace)

Lord, show me how I can serve You. What "small" things can I do for You today? Amen.

We pray for those working on the land.



Tuesday May 27th

'John the Baptist did not go around eating and drinking, and you said, "John has a demon in him!" But because the Son of Man goes around eating and drinking, you say, "Jesus eats and drinks too much! He is even a friend of tax collectors and sinners."' Luke 7:33-34.

'She dresses differently. His hair is different. She has a tattoo. So what? In the eternal scheme of things, what does it matter? We humans have a knack of drawing lines – mostly lines that exclude.

The Pharisees gave Jesus much grief because he didn't fit the mould of what they thought a follower of God should be. The fact is Jesus came to break the Pharisees' mould. Being a Christian isn't about being like everyone else; it's about being different from the world. It's

about worshipping and following the One Who came to give us the grace to break the moulds.’ (5 Minutes of Grace)

Lord, forgive me for the times I judge others just because they are different. Show me the lines I have drawn, and help me to erase them. Teach me to offer grace to all, just as You did. Amen.

We pray for administrators in the NHS.

Wednesday May 28th

‘Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young at a place near your altar, O LORD of Heaven’s Armies, my King and my God!’

Psalms 84:3. ‘At home with God. Is there any thought more lovely, more comforting, or more sustaining? One day we will be free of this life’s troubles, sorrows and sins – and in our permanent home with the Lord. But we don’t have to wait for the afterlife to find a home with God. Even the sparrow and the swallow have found a place to sit near His altar. And we’re told they’re ever under His watchful care, for “not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”’ (5 Minutes of Grace)



This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words and give me the Spirit of Jesus.

We pray for the protection of children using digital technology.

Thursday May 29th Ascension Day.

‘While Jesus was still with them, he said: Don’t leave Jerusalem yet. Wait here for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, just as I told you he has promised to do. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky.’ Acts 1:4-5;9-10.

‘God made a covenant with us. The word “covenant” means “coming together”. God wants to come together with us. In many of the stories in the Hebrew Bible, we see that God appears as a God who defends us against our enemies, protects us against dangers, and guides us to freedom. God is God-for-us. When Jesus comes a new dimension of the covenant is revealed. In Jesus, God is born, grows to maturity, lives, suffers, and dies as we do. God is God-with-us.

Finally, when Jesus leaves, he promises the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit, God reveals the full depth of the covenant. God wants to be as close to us as our breath. God wants to breathe in us, so that all we say, think, and do, is completely inspired by God. God is God-within-us. Thus, God’s covenant reveals to us how much God loves us.’

(Henri Nouwen – Bread For The Journey)

Lord, we need the message of Ascension in our world. Our culture is tired: tired of political systems which promise but do not deliver; tired of instant fun that feels good but does not satisfy; tired of inventing new values that collapse at the first touch; tired of religion that promises bread but gives a stone. Put into our hearts an irresistible confidence that all is not

as it seems, that love, truth and integrity are never defeated, that the kingdom of this world will indeed become the Kingdom of our God and of his Christ. Amen.

We pray for a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine.

Friday May 30th

‘On their way, they were asking one another, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance for us?” But when they looked, they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. And it was a huge stone!’ Mark 16:3.

‘The women made their way to the tomb of Jesus in the early morning stillness. As they walked, they realised there was a problem with their plan. The stone. That massive stone that sealed Jesus’ tomb was just too big for them to move themselves. Who would roll it away for them? You know the story, of course. When they reached the tomb, God himself has already moved the stone.

How often do we try to move our own immovable stones? Like the stone of our sins that keeps us trapped in a spiritual grave. That’s a stone only God can move for us – and the wonderful news is that he already has!’ (5 Minutes of Grace)

Thank you, Loving Father, for that rolled-away stone and that empty tomb. And thank you for rolling away the stone of my sins. Amen.

We pray for all working to reduce the pollution of our oceans.



Saturday May 31st

‘I heard God say two things: “I am powerful, and I am very kind.” Psalm 62:11.

‘When we think of the Father heart of God we must try to keep 2 things in balance – affection and authority. Too much emphasis on his loving affection may cause us to fall into compromise. We may start believing the lie that if he is such a gracious Dad, then we can do what we like. But that is a grave error of judgement. Likewise, too much emphasis on his royal authority may cause us to fall into fear. We may end up thinking that God is like some of the toxic authority figures that have abused us in our lives. This also is a great lie and will lead us into religious servitude. There is a delicate balance to get right here. The key is to be like Jesus, sure of the Father’s affectionate love, and submitted trustingly to his authority.’ (Mark Stibbe – I Am Your Father)

Around your throne in heaven angelic powers exalt you with ceaseless hymns and unending songs of praise; so may your praise be ever on our lips that we may proclaim the greatness of your holy Name. grant that we may share in the inheritance you have promised us, together with all those who hear you, who walk in your truth and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We pray for young people at risk of being drawn into criminal activities.

