

Call to Prayer: Sunday 19th September 2021
Prayer @ 7pm

“Now, do you all understand what I have been saying?” We might just recall these words, or similar, when in school, whether recently or a very long time ago. The teacher has led the class through a lesson and then turned to ask if everyone has understood. No one wants to admit that they did not follow the lesson and that they do not understand.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus begins to teach his disciples about his forthcoming betrayal, death and resurrection. None of the disciples wishes to admit that they do not understand. Their response is one that we can identify with. Instead, the disciples turn to discussing something else: Who is the greatest among them? Jesus hears their discussion and, in response, declares: “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Further, Jesus invites a child to stand amongst them and declares that whoever “welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me”. (Mark 9: 30-37) The response of the disciples is not recorded in the Gospel. Our response is to seek to follow the lesson in order that we might more fully understand the way of the Cross. We pray:

Living God,
Whose way we discern
Through the Cross and the Resurrection of your Son,
We hear the call to take up the Cross
And to live in the light of the Resurrection.
Grant us faith to do so
And courage to confess when we do not understand.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Whose way we discern
Through the Cross and the Resurrection of your Son,
We recognise that we turn too easily
To that which distracts and displaces.
Renew our focus that we might fix our eyes
On the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Whose way we discern
Through the Cross and the Resurrection of your Son,
We hear the call to become servants,
As Christ himself became on our behalf.
May we learn the lesson of servanthood
From the One who gave his life as a ransom for many.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Living God,
Whose way we discern
Through the Cross and the Resurrection of your Son,
We recognise the children in our midst
Whose lives are a gift from your hand.
May we receive them within the community of faith
And so receive Christ in our midst.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Signed by:

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, Church of Scotland

Most Rev. Leo Cushley, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, Roman Catholic Church

Most Rev. Mark Strange, Primus, on behalf of the College of Bishops, Scottish Episcopal Church

Rev. Dr David Miller, Moderator, United Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Neil MacMillan, Moderator, Free Church of Scotland

Rev. Paul Whittle, Moderator, United Reformed Church (Scotland)

Rev. Martin Hodson, General Director, Baptist Union of Scotland

Rev. Mark Slaney, District Chair, Methodist Church (Scotland)

Rev. Thomas R. Wilson, Chair, Congregational Federation in Scotland

Lt. Col. Carol Bailey, Secretary for Scotland, Salvation Army

Adwoa Bittle, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rev. Ruth Turner, District Superintendent, British Isles North District, Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Chris Gbenle, Provincial Pastor, Province of Scotland, Redeemed Christian Church of God

Bishop Francis Alao, Church of God (Scotland)/Minority Ethnic Churches Together in Scotland (MECTIS)

Rev Fred Drummond, Director, Evangelical Alliance (Scotland)