

SPC 8th May: café-style service

Call to worship (Psalm 136 read antiphonally)

Opening prayer

Father God, we praise You with all our being.
Let us never forget the kindness You have shown to us.
You forgive all our sins.
You bring us healing.
You give us eternal life.
You bless us with Your love and mercy.
You fill our lives with good things.
You are merciful and tender towards us.
Your loving kindness is from everlasting to everlasting.
As high as the Heavens are above the Earth, so great is Your love to those who honour You.
We worship You this day, in the gathering of Your people.
Forgive us, Lord, for all our weaknesses, failings and wrong choices.
Help us to forgive those who may have hurt us.
Lord, bless this time we have together this morning, and bless those worshipping you in Ashkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow, or at home, today.
In Jesus name we pray,
Amen

159 Lord, for the years

(reflecting our thanks to God for his care for us in the past, now and in the future)

Bible Readings:

This morning, we are going to pick up the theme of prayer that Scott preached on last week – a chance to reflect on what he said and relate it to our own lives

Luke 11 vv 1-4 (DB)

Luke 18 vv 1-8 (Margaret Milne)

Group activity 1: discussion

Reflecting back on the parable, I guess we may be able to think of times when we felt like the widow in the story, and also perhaps times when God answered our prayers very clearly and directly – maybe even miraculously.

In you group, talk about:

- > times when God has answered your prayers
- > times when you have felt like the “persistent widow” and had to keep on asking God, and maybe still waiting for him to answer
No feedback required! 5 minutes?

Songs:

Jesus, name above all names. (signed?)
Jesus, be the centre (a prayer – as are many of our songs)

Group activity 2: praying for church family and community

Ref: notice sheet – every week – 3 topics for us all to pray (if we can remember to do it)

1. church family (one area of the town and its elder or visitor)
2. community (local topics)
3. world (big issues)

So, for 5 minutes, imagine this week’s area – talk about it – imagine walking along the streets – what would you see – who lives there – then write a short prayer for that part of the town (you can read it together or share it with all of us. If you want)

The, we are called to pray for our new Councillors:

- > Caroline Cochrane
- > Elaine Thornton-Nichol
- > Leagh Douglas

From each group, 1 or 2 words that you want to pray for them (eg)wisdom
Summary prayer.

Song:

I lift my eyes to the quiet hills (based on Psalm 121)

Group activity 3:

Prayers don’t need to be words! In fact, we are encouraged by Jesus in Matthew 6: NOT to “keep on babbling like pagans for they think they will be heard because of their many words”. We can pray with few words or no words at all.

So, focussing on those who are suffering because of climate change, can you draw a picture that reflects what you want to say to God, what you want him to change, how you want him to intervene ...

Song:

Shine, Jesus, shine.

Blessing (said together):

Notices:

Next week (15th): “normal service” in church, led by Scott

2 weeks time (22nd): “café-style, family-friendly” to celebrate our children and families work over the last 3 difficult years

3 weeks time (29th): joint service at Kirkhope

Next Saturday: Christian Aid coffee morning at St. John's