

Quiet Time Evening Service Giffnock Orchardhill Church 27 January 2021

Good evening and a very warm welcome to our Quiet Time service coming from Orchardhill Parish Church in Glasgow. Whether you are joining us live through “Zoom” or listening on the podcast, you are most welcome. If you would like to participate in a speaking part in the weeks ahead, please do get in contact. You can use the email address on Orchardhill’s website: quiet-time@orchardhill.org.uk. The website is also available to receive prayer requests which we would welcome and will use sensitively. Although we cannot gather together in the same building at this time, we are invited to worship together, ‘virtually,’ online and to take comfort from God’s constant presence. And so whether you are near or far, a regular or first-time attender, we are united together not only by technology but by the Spirit of the Risen Lord!

Opening Words

Walking with God is a way of life, and it is a choice. We can walk in God's ways or the ways of the world, but we cannot do both. There will be sacrifices made no matter which path you choose, but walking with God is the way of eternal life. Walking with God is what Jesus was saying in Luke 9:23 “If any one would come after me, he

must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

Let us pray

Holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us. We thank you for your presence in us, and in creation. May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love. In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.

Lord of abiding love, present in all our beginnings, acquainted with all of our ways, you understand our thoughts. As we gather to worship you and to give you thanks and praise, we know that nothing is hidden from you. May we recognise your presence in our midst and your spirit in all that we do and think and say. AMEN

Tonight's reading comes from the Book of Micah Chapter 6 Verses 6-8

Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

And now a moment of reflection as we listen to and watch The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sing ‘I’ll walk with God’ – this was music written in 1954 by Nicolas Brodzsky with lyrics by Paul Francis Webster. It was included in the film ‘The Student Prince’ with the lead character’s voice dubbed by the tenor Mario Lanza, singing this at the coffin of this Grandfather, the King of Karlsburg. The Prince is contemplating the challenges he will now face, as he now becomes heir to the throne.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
Reach out to our world,
Just as you did to so many during your earthly ministry.
Minister to us in our brokenness,
Our inner yearning for meaning,
Our sense of guilt and shame,
Our struggle to love you and others,

Our weakness of will,
Our hurts and fears,
Our pride,
Envy,
Greed,
And stubbornness –
So much that undermines life and devalues our
humanity.
Minister to all who are broken,
The sick and suffering,
The physically and mentally disabled,
The terminally ill,
Victims of war,
The homeless,
The oppressed and exploited,
Vulnerable and poor,
So many crying out for help,
Hope,
Strength,
And support.
Lord Jesus,
Bring healing to us and to all,
And show us how we, in turn,
Can reach out in Your name,
Seeking to share Your wholeness,
And make known Your love.

Father God,
Hear our prayer today for all who are lonely.
Minister to those starved of company,

Confined to their homes,
And longing simply for someone to talk to.

Comfort those who feel unloved or unvalued,
All who struggle to build meaningful relationships,
Feeling isolated even when they are with others.
Give them the assurance that they are never completely
on their own,
That however much it must seem otherwise,
You are always by their sides,
A constant friend and companion on the journey of life.
Help them, and all, to recognise Your love reaching out,
Each moment of everyday.

Mighty God,
Give us a faith that is personal, vibrant and real –
based on what we have experienced of Your goodness
and love.
Help us to learn from fellow Christians and past
generations,
To benefit from the accumulated wisdom of the Church
past and present.
Speak Your word and teach us to listen.
Draw near and meet us afresh.
Reach out until we respond for ourselves,
And truly know, love and serve You with all our heart.

Wherever we walk Lord,

Whatever else we do,
Help us to respond to Your call –
Honouring You in our thinking and feeling,
Speaking and doing,
Working and resting,
Living and loving.
Help us to hear Your voice and to answer.

At this time as Coronavirus continues to plague the earth, we think of those suffering, those mourning, the Doctors and nurses, the paramedics and carers – all who help to combat this invisible killer.

We especially ask you to look over Stephen Mitchell, Manager of the Lodging House Mission in Glasgow as he battles COVID pneumonia in hospital – be with Stephen Lord.

We pray the vaccine will be our light at the end of this dark tunnel we have been in for the last ten months.

(Moment of silence)

Loving God, we pray for our Probationer Gillian, our Interim Moderator John, our Youth Worker Lorna, our church staff, all those who help to keep things running behind the scenes, and our congregation as we support each other. Watch over us and keep us all safe. Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that we may carry on our lives as best as we are able, always trusting and walking with you, our most beloved God. Amen.

For our final reading we turn to the poem 'Footprints in the Sand'. This is special to so many Christians because it speaks directly of our unique relationship with God. Our faith in God does not excuse us from experiencing hardship and sadness. The reality is that we all go through ups and downs in our lives. Sometimes God walks beside us, and other times He must carry us:

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most*

*troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,
You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will
never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*

Let us come together to say the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our
sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from
the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen

And to close -

Father, may our worship be acceptable before you.
Let the peace that surpasses all understanding be with
us as we leave this gathering.

Help us to make a difference in the world this week ahead. Let our words and actions align with your word. Help us to practice what we have listened to this evening.

Bless us as we go our separate ways and help us to never forget that you are walking with us always. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, **Amen.**