

**For 26<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

prepared by Ian Lawson

Each Sunday, Christians in every part of the UK are joining together in prayer. We would like to encourage you to keep setting aside 7pm on a Sunday for prayer, no matter how long you give. As you start, place a lit candle in the window of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ. Here are some suggested points for prayer

### **Eph 3: 14-19**

*For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

- Can we praise the Lord our God for His graciousness and faithfulness towards His creation by supplying its every need? The world continues to turn, the sun shines, crops grow, and we have enough to eat, every day the requirements are supplied to keep us all. We praise You Lord for the gift of family and friends, may our love for them be modelled on Christ and His compassion and humility towards everyone whom He met. Thank You Lord in that our lives are so much better by knowing Your Son and for His sacrifice for us.
- All over the world there are volunteers and aid agencies who are dedicated to helping others. We pray for them and the people they are aiding to survive many difficulties. The trauma of famine, war, disease, and refugee camps, all cost lives especially children and yet many are willing to go into these situations to work and bring some comfort. The world has enough resources, pray that we can learn to share them more.
- Pray for leaders of the world that they will govern their countries with wisdom and compassion and also that God's love will be a driving force for the good of all. We also bring our own leaders in prayer to the Lord and in

hope that our government in Scotland and the UK are led by people of integrity. The task of leaders is not without pressure - to govern correctly and to do it equally and fairly, so we pray for guidance for them and, good Lord, Your blessing on them.

- We give thanks to You Lord for Your presence in people's lives; for their faith in times of trial due to ongoing illness; suffering delays in treatment due to the coronavirus, we pray for Your loving arms to cuddle them and uplift them, assuring them of Your support in personal crisis and in the enduring fight against disease. We pray for all who are anxious - that there are means of support for them, and all with mental health needs - that they can access the help they require. Also, we pray for all who provide the service, and the workload they have to deal with; we pray for patience for everyone, whether in need or supporting those who are in need.
- Our church in the Braes, whether in Brightons or Polmont, Slamannan, Muiravonside, Shieldhill and Laurieston/Redding, is struggling, in the midst of the pandemic, to worship You Lord in the 'Normal'!! Way'. Give our church leaders Your guidance and lead them in the proper path for the praise of You, to bring You Glory and Honour. Changes are planned, or are in the planning, for our area and we pray for everyone who has responsibility, give them good judgement, sound faith and bless them in their tasks.
- Heavenly Father thank You for Your wonderful love and care and for Your Holy Word where we can find directions for our living, a book full of wisdom and guidance that leads away from worldly pleasures into a marvellous relationship with You. Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit are uncovered there giving us an awesome view of what awaits us if we follow that narrow path. Thank you, Lord, that You have come into our lives and for the countless blessings.
- Natural disasters are happening more frequently than ever before, fires in Siberia, floods more severe this year in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Indonesia. Please pray for these poor people who live on the edge, daily struggling to make ends meet, many have lost their homes. Pray for help and assistance for these and many more in Africa suffering from similar disasters. The world climate is changing, Lord give us the means to change attitudes of self-interest and greed to honour Your creation and Your growth in the knowledge of Your desires.
- As our schools prepare to return to normal education as far as they can, we pray for all the children in every sphere of childcare, nurseries, school, and child minding; our school teachers and all the staff having to deal with the restrictions of Covid-19 as well as returning to a new way of working - give them patience and the reassurance of Your presence and Your love.