

For 18th to 31st October 2020

prepared by Eric Smith

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.

“Great is His faithfulness, constant is His love” – lines from a song some may remember from the past – the first line was “New, every morning it’s new, the love of God for me is wonderfully new!” These words are inspired by verses in

Lamentations 3:22-23 *Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Prayer points:

- Take time to stop and thank God, even in the midst of this pandemic, with all its restrictions and difficulties, that we are assured of His love and care. Thank Him for the day by day delivery of our basic services by so many... shop workers, health workers, refuse collectors... people that we perhaps take too easily for granted. Thank Him, too, for the times when we have had contact from friends and family, even if only by phone. And if that is not the case for you, then thank Him that there are those around in the church who are willing to help – and then perhaps call and leave a message on the church phone (01324 713855) so that we can get in touch.
- Pray for Scott, Ian and the Elders at Brightons, along with so many others, as they seek to care for the membership and to offer contact, support and resources week by week including the online services, CDs, DVDs and printed material to encourage each and all of us in our walk with God.

- Pray for those within the national church as they balance the need to maintain health and safety for members and ministers and staff throughout the country with the real need and hunger that people have to meet and worship God together. Thank God for the imaginative ways that churches are finding to share the love of God and pray for Scott and the Session at Brightons as they look at ways of opening up church again.
- As we move into autumn and winter, we may be tempted to lament that fact that there is so much we would normally do that we can't. Instead, let's look at what we can do and pray for organisations like Blythswood Care and Tearfund as they seek to maintain the services they provide for others. Pray for those at Brightons organising the Blythswood shoebox collection and the Tearfund Big Quiz Night – may these draw us closer at this time.
- We think of our uniformed organisations and pray for the national leaders of the Girls' and Boys' Brigades. Thank God for the many hundreds of officers, leaders and helpers throughout Scotland who are working through difficult circumstances to keep contact with, and encourage, girls and boys.
- Thank God that we are part of a church family and pray for the wider church family in the Braes area as we, along with Polmont Old, Slamannan, Blackbraes and Shieldhill, Laurieston, Muiravonside and Redding and Westquarter congregations, look to how we will work together in the months ahead as the proposed Presbytery plan is moved forward. Pray for grace and wisdom in all the discussions that are happening and for good relationships to be built.
- Finally, stop again and thank God that He loves each and every one of us and longs that we might know Him better and deepen our relationship with Him – reflect on Matthew 10:30 and take comfort from the fact that God knows us so well and loves us so much.

Matthew 10:29-31 *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet 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.*