



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

Welcome to Liberton Kirk's "Peace Pathway" in this peaceful place. There has been a place of worship here for over a thousand years—since the Celtic Christians brought the Good News of Jesus. Wars, disasters and pandemics have come and gone. The present church building has been here for over two hundred years, standing at the top of the hill as a beacon of hope, a place of sanctuary and peace.

You are invited to pause for a while to experience the peace which exists in this holy place and to draw just a little closer to God. At times recently all of us have felt our lives to be in turmoil. Our minds struggle to process all the information which bombards us. It seems as if there is nothing we can be certain about. We want to get back to normal. We need peace.

You are invited to walk round the eight "stations" (and round the church building). The stations are marked with numbered stones on the ground and the first is very close—on the North wall of this small building. Take a little time to read the sheets and, if you wish, to pray the prayers which are there for you. Please switch off your mobile 'phone now so that neither you nor anyone else in the garden will be disturbed—and please respect the social distancing guidelines. If you wish to think about what you have just read, do please sit for a while on one of the benches if they are free, or walk around, on the grass if it is fine.

If you wish to look up the Bible quotes later and don't have a Bible, look up Bible Gateway on the internet and choose the NIV translation.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives."*

(Jesus' words not long before his death, found in the Bible at John Chapter 14, verse:27a)



THE WORD FOR TODAY
The Bible speaks in today's world



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1

This Kirkyard is a peaceful place, even though it is in a city. Many places were more peaceful in lockdown but now there is more traffic and more noise again. Even in peaceful spots like remote beaches there are always noises around us competing for attention.

What can you hear now? Perhaps it is traffic in Kirkgate or on Liberton Brae, or people's voices, or birds singing, something we've delighted in during lockdown. Or perhaps someone is cutting the grass! Listen to each sound . . . and then put it to one side.

What about the busyness of your mind, and your thoughts competing for attention? Things you have to do, things you've forgotten to do, who you need to telephone. Take each one . . . and then put it to one side.

Let God still your soul. Just feel the quiet: calm down and enjoy the peace of this place.

Be still quiet be still

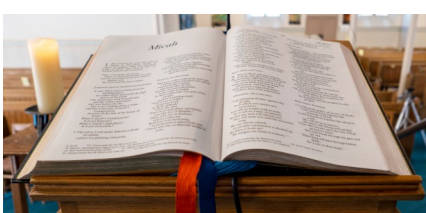
You might like to use the prayer below, and to spend a few moments letting peace wash over you:

God of peace, still my soul
calm my heart and mind
until I can rest in you and know that you are God

"Be still, and know that I am God."

(found in the Bible in Psalm 46, verse 10))

Station 2 is near the East Door of the church building



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2

Worries can weigh you down. We are often anxious about all sorts of things, but the Covid-19 pandemic has heightened our anxiety levels and brought extra worries which will be with us for a while. Now we worry for ourselves and loved ones about health, about schooling missed, about jobs, about businesses at risk, about the future—what will the “new normal” be? And we get into such a state that we start worrying about our mental health too.

Ask God to take the burden of your worries away, and to give you wisdom to know how to move forward. Why not pray now?

*Lord, lift the burden of all my worries and anxieties from me
give me wisdom to discern those which I can do something about, and to deal with them. . . .
let your peace flow over me and give me rest in you.*

*“Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.’”
(found in the Bible in Matthew’s Gospel Chapter 11, verse 28)*

Stations 3 and 4 are round the corner of the church nearest to you



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3

There are so many conflicts and unrest around the world that sometimes we despair of ever seeing a peaceful world. Conflicts often begin with individuals who can't live at peace with their neighbours, who can't forgive, and who won't say "sorry". In this pandemic we have been re-discovering the value of community, of living harmoniously together, helping each other where needed.

Are there people you can't forgive for things said or done long ago? Jesus taught us that as we forgive others, so God will also forgive us. Are there things in your own life you are ashamed of? Do you want to carry these things around, or do you want to let them go? One little word—sorry—this is between you and God. Jesus died on the cross for this—for you—to save you from your sins.

A suggested prayer:

God, I am sorry that I have done and said things which have hurt others,
and things I am ashamed of.

Thank you for the forgiveness you offer me through Jesus' death on the cross.

Help me to be as gracious in my forgiveness of others
as you are in your forgiveness of me.

"In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins."

(found in the Bible in Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 1, verse 7)



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4

Do you ever wonder why you are here?
Or whether God really cares about you?

Jesus once said that God cared for the wild flowers and the tiniest sparrows, and we should not doubt that he cared for us!

Feel your pulse.
Life is running through you.
Life is a gift of God.

You are here because God made you, in his own image, a unique human being. He knows you and loves you and is always with you—remember that when you leave this Kirkyard today and let it colour your life. Jesus said that he came to earth to give us life in all its fullness—now is the time to begin to live that life.

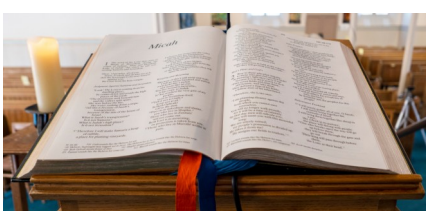
You might like to use this prayer, or use your own words:

Thank you, God, for the precious gift of life and for your love for me.
Lead me into the full life you have planned for me
here on earth and onward into heaven.

*“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”*

(found in the Bible in the First Letter of John Chapter 3, verse 1)

Now walk along the back of the church and turn left at the end to find Stations 5 and 6



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5

One of the most powerful things we can do for others is to pray. If you are unable to help others in practical ways in this pandemic, you can support them in a very real way by praying for them. Prayer is talking to God, and you can do it anywhere. Take a few moments now as you stand here, or have a seat here or on the prayer bench to your left, to pray for whoever or whatever concerns you at this time.

If you have found yourself praying in recent months, but it's not a normal part of your life, do pick up a Try Praying booklet from the leaflet boxes on the main gate to the Kirkyard or on the railings across the road. And when you leave this peaceful place, remember to continue to bring your concerns to God in prayer at any time and in any place: he loves to hear from each one of us and to know that we care about each other and our world.

A suggestion for a prayer:

Lord, I give thanks for those who brighten my life with love

I bring before you those who need your love and care especially at this time

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.”

(found in the Bible in John's First Letter Chapter 4, verse 7)



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6

We live in an amazing world. Yes, it's a living planet, which sometimes bursts into frightening destructive power, but its resources are immense—and it is just beautiful! In lockdown people have been finding just what beautiful places there are in Liberton, and what wonderful views. Many of the pictures on these sheets are taken near here.

This planet is a great, God-filled gift ours to care for. We can call it "home". What a blessing! What a responsibility!

We know that our planet is being damaged by our lifestyle—things need to change. We know that everybody is not well fed and sheltered. COP 26 takes place in Glasgow in November, and it's vital that the nations unite in action to produce real change. It's easy to think we can't make a difference, but the responsibility falls on each of us to change the way we live, to support aid agencies in their campaigns, to pray for meaningful decisions at COP 26, to pray for change. Are you doing all you can?

You might like to pray this prayer:

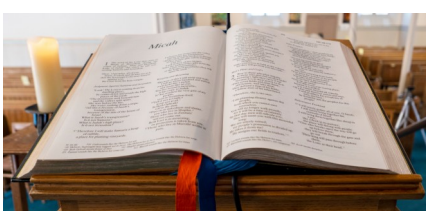
**Thank you, God, for the wonderful world you created as our home
help us to play our part in caring for it and looking after its resources
help all its people to be united in their care for each other.**

Please guide the leaders of the nations in their decisions at COP 26 in November.

***"You made him (man, mankind) ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet."***

(found in the Bible at Psalm 8, verse 6)

Station 7 is behind the cairn on your right



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7

We love worshipping God within the walls of this church, but during lockdown the church building had to be closed, and currently numbers are restricted and we must follow strict guidelines. Many are still joining in the worship on Zoom. Whether the building is closed or its use strictly regulated, the church is still alive, because the church is made up of people, who worship God not just on Sundays but as they go about their daily lives. They are the “living stones” of the church. This churchyard is full of the human remains of “living stones” from the past who are now worshipping God in glory. The cairn behind you was built in 2015 to remind us of those who have been “living stones” here and to remind us of our responsibilities now.

The church here is still alive—we are worshipping God together, praying together on Zoom, meals are being distributed from the Kirk Centre, food is being collected for the Food Bank, the elderly and lonely and the sick are being cared for, and all over Liberton God’s love is being shown through acts and words of kindness.

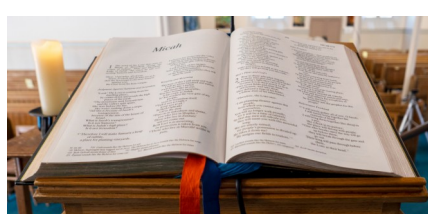
There is talk of a new caring society after this virus has been subdued, and we long to see God’s Kingdom come on earth—a Kingdom of love and peace and justice. Jesus calls each one of us to be “living stones” in his church on earth today—will you make that commitment? Please pray this prayer:

**Thank you, God, for the generations of people who have made up
your church in Liberton over the centuries.
Help me to play my part now in letting your love be known in my community.**

“. . you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house“

(found in the Bible in the First Letter of Peter Chapter 2, verse 5)

Station 8 is at the centre front of the church



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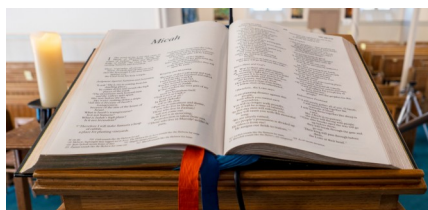
8

The poppies and other wild flowers in Liberton's fields and open spaces open up to the sun to receive its life-giving warmth. It is only when we open ourselves up to God that the warmth of his love can enter deep into our hearts and restore our souls.

Let God love you.
let God know you.
let God heal you.
let God speak to you.
pray now

*God, I want to know you . . . I open my heart to you
Come to me and renew me now.*

*"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken."
(in the Bible in Psalm 62, verses 5 & 6)*



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Introduction	Bill Brandie
Station 1	Ruth Davies
Station 2	Ruth Davies
Station 3	Ruth Davies
Station 4	Ruth Davies
Station 5	Ben White on Unsplash
Station 6	Ruth Davies
Station 7	Ruth Davies
Station 8	John Gill