



THE WORD FOR TODAY

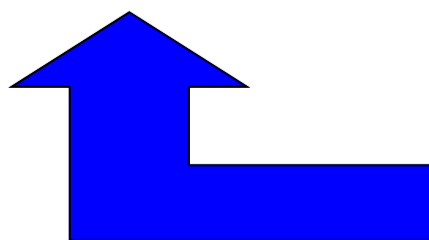
THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Our Father, who art in heaven . . .”

In Chapter 11 of Luke's Gospel we read that Jesus' disciples asked him “Lord, teach us to pray”. Jesus responded by teaching them the prayer we call “The Lord's Prayer”, which is not only a prayer we can learn and say with other Christians in services or groups, but a pattern for our other prayers, and a sort of manual for how to pray. You can find what Jesus said in Luke Chapter 11, from verse 2, and in Matthew Chapter 6, from verse 9. We have used the words we normally use in Liberton Kirk, which are widely used elsewhere and are closely based on the words in the Bible.



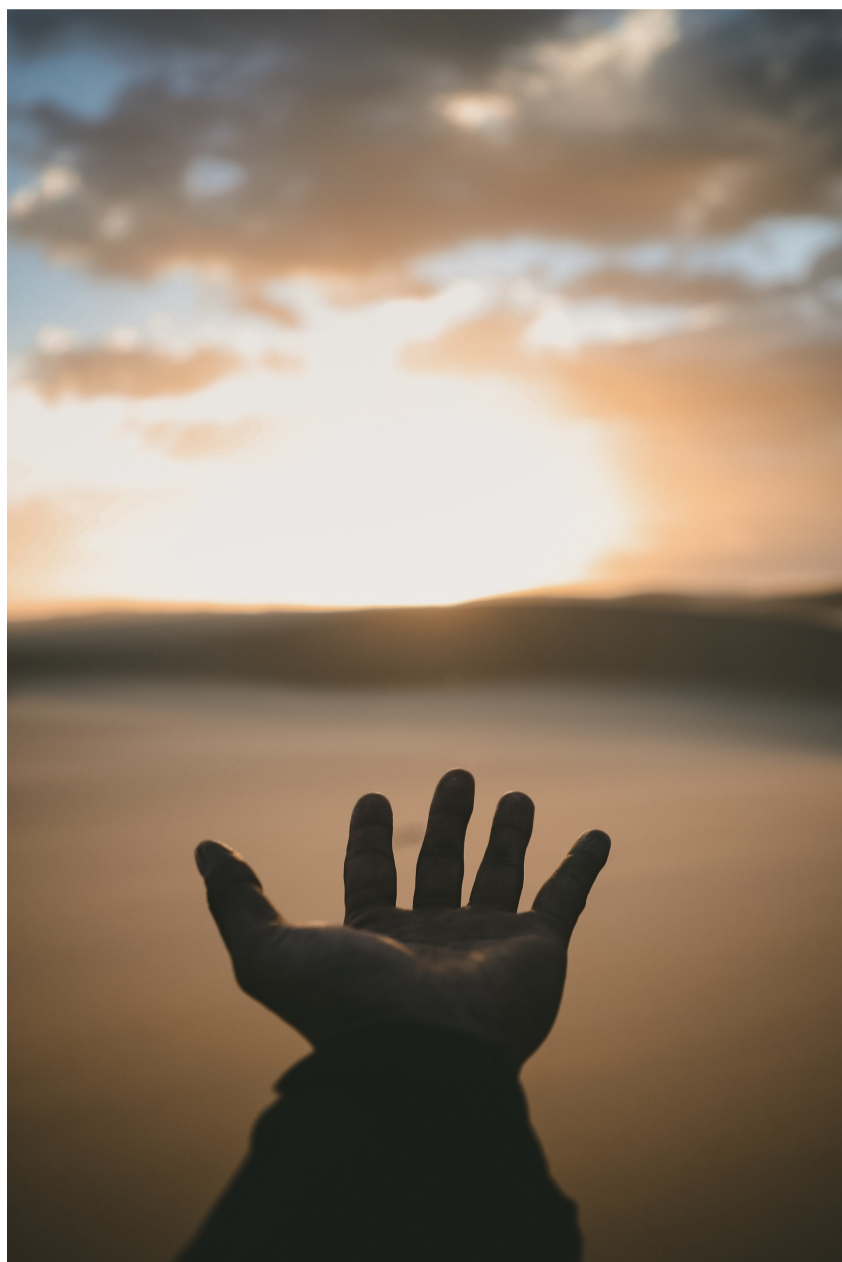
Follow the words of the Lord's Prayer, beginning on the north wall of this little building and then continuing anti-clockwise round the church building.



Turn immediately left to find panel 1

***“Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.”***

1



Notice how this prayer says “our Father”, not “my Father”. Later it also says “us” not “me”. This is a prayer which unites us to all Christians past and present. We can pray it together, or we can pray it alone, but knowing that we are part of a community, some of whom might well be praying it at the same time as us, perhaps in another language, perhaps in another place.

Here we acknowledge God as our loving Father, but also as someone whose name we want to be honoured and kept holy. Our part in this is trying to live the sort of lives he would want us to live.

***Father God, thank you for loving each one of us as your children.
Guide us every day we pray.
May nothing we say or do dishonour you in any way.***

You will find the next panel on the east wall of the church



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Thy kingdom come.”

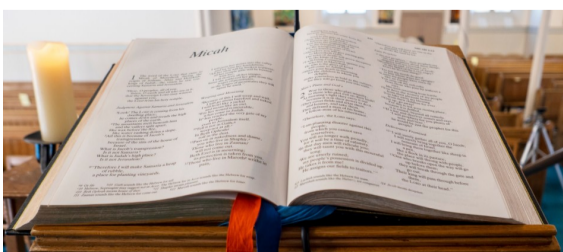
2



Jesus spoke often about God’s Kingdom—he said it was a priceless treasure. It wasn’t easy to get into it, but it was really special. A kingdom where justice, peace and love were the ruling values—where inequalities didn’t exist. How we long for a world like that! We have glimpses of what it could be like when love manifests itself in unexpected places, like in the pandemic, when people helped each other in so many ways, when frantically busy nurses took time to hold the hands of the dying, when lonely people found friends. When we pray this prayer we are saying that with God’s help we will play our part.

*Lord, there is such a need for love, peace and justice in this world.
Thank you for glimpses of how it could be.
Open our eyes to see what we can do to bring your kingdom nearer.*

Panel 3 is on the Side Door



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.”***

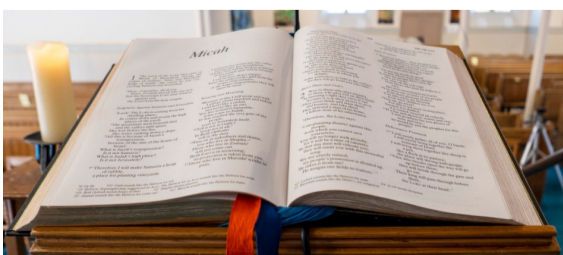
3



We have some beautiful places in Scotland where it is not difficult to believe in God’s power and love. When he created this planet he was very pleased with it—he saw that it was “very good”. Human beings are not doing a very good job when it comes to looking after that earth and all its creatures and people. We have brought climate change on ourselves, we pollute the seas and litter the land with our waste, the gulf widens between the haves and the have-nots and our inability to live peaceably with our neighbours has brought destruction and misery to many places. We don’t live the way God wants us to live. If we pray this prayer “Thy will be done . . . ” we commit ourselves to try to do better. Jesus summed up very simply how we should behave—love God and love our neighbour. It’s a challenge!

***Lord, thank you for the beautiful world you have created.
Open our eyes to see your will for its future.
Open our hearts to work for its restoration to beauty and order.***

Panel 4 is on the back door



THE WORD FOR TODAY

“Give us this day our daily bread.”

4

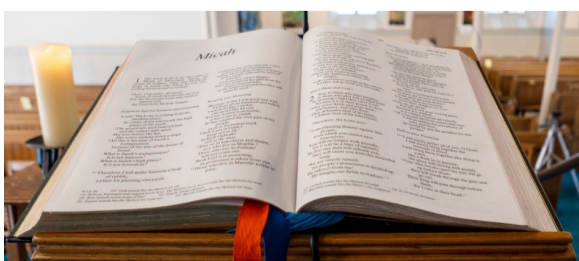
Jesus once said “Do not worry about tomorrow” and this phrase reinforces that. We will surely be praying this prayer again tomorrow, that is expected. How can we build a relationship with our Heavenly Father if we do not speak and listen to him regularly? We are not praying for any more than we need but we are praying that everybody will be fed. We have witnessed in the pandemic the human instinct to stockpile as soon as possible shortages are mentioned, but we trust in a God who will meet our needs—physical and spiritual—every single day. In our turn we should act in a way which takes everybody’s needs into account.



***Lord, help me not to be greedy.
Help me to share.***

Draw me closer to you in prayer and deepen my trust in your provision.

Panel 5 is on the Side Door



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.”***

5

It is not long after Good Friday and Easter, when we remembered that Jesus died on the cross so that our sins might be forgiven, and rose again three days later to triumph over sin and death. God offers us forgiveness for our sins, however undeserving we might be, if we believe in Jesus our Saviour. It's amazing grace!

Jesus pointed out on more than one occasion in his life on earth that forgiveness was something he wanted all his followers to embrace, and indeed he said that if we didn't forgive others than we would not be forgiven ourselves—strong words! When we pray this prayer we can be full of thanksgiving for the hope of forgiveness we have, but we have to accept that we must try with all our hearts to forgive those who hurt or damage us.



***Lord, I am sorry that I am not always the loving person you want me to be.
Thank you for your promise of forgiveness bought by Jesus' death on the cross.
Help me to find the grace to forgive others who hurt or wrong me.***

Panel 6 is on the Tower Door



THE WORD FOR TODAY

***“And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.”***

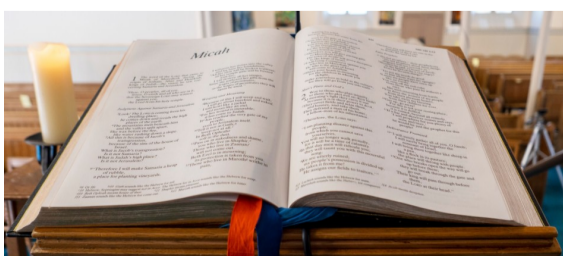
6



There are so many temptations around us to stray from following Jesus. We don't want to have to face them, and it's better to keep away. God can help our resolve. We don't want in any way to be under the influence of the evil which we know exists, but we have a God who is a superior power. When Jesus died and rose again he defeated the power of evil and death. All we have to do is admit that we can't do it alone, and this prayer does just that—it is asking for God's power to be at work in our lives.

***Lord, guide my steps away from temptation.
If I feel tempted, help me to resist.
Please don't let me be influenced by the evil in this world, or caught in its grip.
Lord, I trust in your power and love.***

Panel 7 is on the wall behind the cairn



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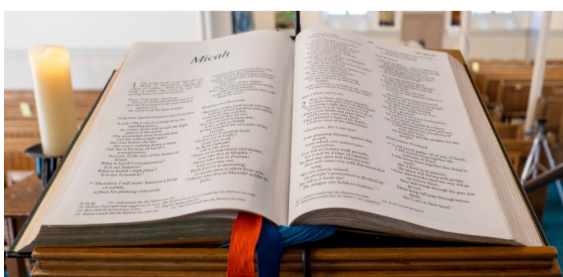
***“For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, for ever.
Amen.”***

7

This final phrase is not in all translations of the Bible, and was probably added by early Christians. It is a good reminder of who we have been praying to—the God who is King of earth and heaven and who has all the power and all the glory. What’s more this will always be so. Yet we can speak to him as a child speaking to its father. He loves us and knows each one of us by name. Doesn’t that just take your breath away?



***Lord, we worship you, Almighty, Glorious King,
but also our loving Heavenly Father.
We pray that we will come to know you better.
Keep us close to you through prayer.
Help us to deepen our faith day by day.***



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