



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, inflation has gone up and come down, governments and leaders have changed. 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.

In these summer months particularly, 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. The world around us is hectic and at times disturbing or even alien. There is, however, beauty all around us. There is also peace if we look for it.

You are invited to walk round the eight "stations" (and round the church building). There is stonework going on so please take care: keep away from the scaffolding and if you walk on the grass be careful not to slip if it is at all damp. The stations are marked with numbered stones on the ground and the first is just round the corner to the left of this notice. Sit for a while on the benches, 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.

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. You can find the whole script for the Peace Pathway on the church website, www.libertonkirk.net

*"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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

1

This Kirkyard is a peaceful place, even though it is in a city. That doesn't mean that there is no noise or disturbance. Even in the most peaceful spots there are always noises around us—perhaps birds or animals or water—competing for attention.

What can you hear now? Perhaps it is traffic in Kirkgate or an ambulance or police car in the distance, people's voices, or birds singing. Perhaps the stonemasons are shaping stones or tapping them into place, 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, people you need to speak to. Take each one . . . and then put it to one side.

Let God still your soul. 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 on the East side of the church building just past the scaffolding on the right, but if you don't want to walk past the scaffolding on the grass, walk round the church in the other direction until you eventually find Station 2.



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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

2

Worries can weigh you down. We are often anxious about all sorts of things, but somehow today's world seems a more worrying place to be than it was. There is war on our doorstep in Europe; there are major world powers whose leaders seem very unpredictable; elections world-wide are bringing changes which raise questions about the future, cyber attacks and artificial intelligence are confusing. Our daily lives have their own worries: health concerns; the cost of living; the problems in the N.H.S. and the Care system; the loss of family and friends; scam threats; keeping children safe growing up.

It is quite difficult not to find something to worry about. But worrying is debilitating and it doesn't help to sort out the problems. Jesus once asked the question, *"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"* (Matthew 6:27)

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)***

Station 3 is further along this side of the church



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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

3

There are so many conflicts and unrest around the world that sometimes we despair of ever seeing a peaceful world. The war in Ukraine is so close and the possible outcomes so frightening. We see so many children and whole families killed in the Middle East and such suffering in Sudan and Yemen.

Conflicts often begin with individuals who can't live at peace with their neighbours, who can't forgive, and who won't say "sorry". Yet we need each other. In the Covid pandemic we rediscovered the value of community, of living harmoniously together, of helping each other where needed, and that was one of the good things in that difficult time.

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:

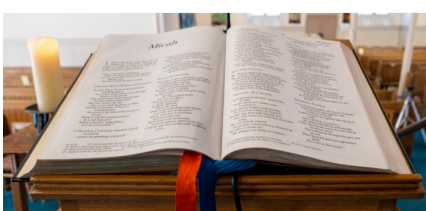
**God, I am sorry that I have done and said things which have hurt others,
and things I am ashamed of.
Thank you for the forgiveness you offer me through Jesus' death on the cross.**

**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)

Station 4 is against the back wall of the church



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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

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.
Look at your fingertips—no-one else's fingerprint is the same as yours.**

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. You are loved, and will always be loved.

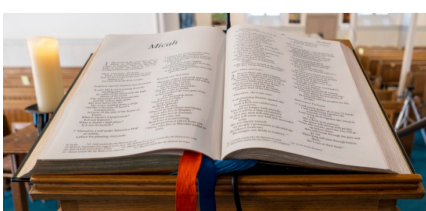
You might like to use this prayer, or use your own words:

**Thank you, God, for the precious gift of life.
Thank you, Father, for your love for me.
I pray that anyone needing love in their lives would know
that you are with them always.**

***“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 find Station 5 on the bench to the right



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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

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, 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 sit and read this to pray for whoever or whatever concerns you at this time, and to give thanks for the people and things you really cherish. When the Peace Pathway is no longer in the Kirkyard this bench is still designated as a prayer bench. It is always there if you feel it helps to have a special place.

If prayer isn't a normal part of your life, do pick up a Try Praying booklet from the Offering House at the gate to the Kirkyard, or from the leaflet boxes on the railings across the road. And when you leave this peaceful place, remember to continue to bring your thanks and 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:

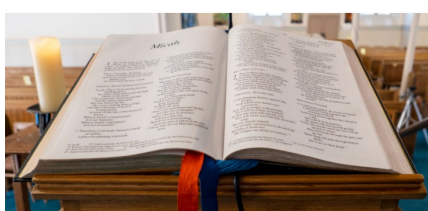
Lord, I give thanks for those who brighten my life with love

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)

Station 6 is just before you reach the church tower



THE WORD FOR TODAY

The Bible speaks in today's world



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

6

We live in an amazing world. Yes, it's a living planet, which sometimes shows frightening destructive power, but its resources are immense—and it is just beautiful! There are many beautiful places in Liberton—we are so blessed to have lovely walks close by.

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. We know there is more extreme weather and that sea levels are rising, bringing catastrophe to communities around the world. 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 the leaders of the nations to act, to pray for change. Are you doing all you can? Liberton Kirk is now an ECO Congregation which means that each one of us in any way connected with it has a particular responsibility.

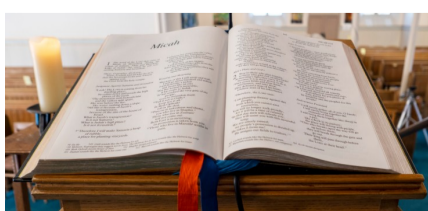
You might like to pray this prayer:

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 to keep promises and take action.

*"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 just past the tower beside the cairn



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



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

7

It's good to find a peaceful spot to sit and remember! It's good to remember—whether it is people we have known and loved who are no longer with us, or difficult times we have lived through. Earlier this year we dedicated the Covid Memorial on the wall here. It reminds us of those who suffered in the pandemic in so many ways, but it also brings to mind the many helpful and kind people we came across in those long months. The cairn was built in 2015 to remind us of all those who have been “living stones” in the church here at Liberton over the centuries. The church here is a living community of people who worship and serve God not just on Sundays but as we go about our daily lives, and this cairn reminds us of our daily responsibility.

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 join us in making that commitment? Please pray this prayer:

Thank you, loving Father, for bringing me through the pandemic, and for the love that was shown in so many ways in that difficult time.

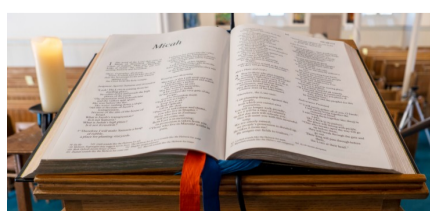
Thank you, God, for the generations of people who have made up your church in Liberton over the centuries.

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 just round the corner at the front of the church



THE WORD FOR TODAY

The Bible speaks in today's world



LIBERTON KIRK'S PEACE PATHWAY

8

Sometimes in the summer the grass in this Kirkyard is covered with daisies. The flowers are cut off when the grass is cut but after a few days they reappear. It's the same in the spring with the dandelions. All the wild flowers in this Kirkyard and elsewhere in Liberton's fields and hedgerows open up to the sun to receive its life-giving warmth. As do the flowers in our gardens and parks.

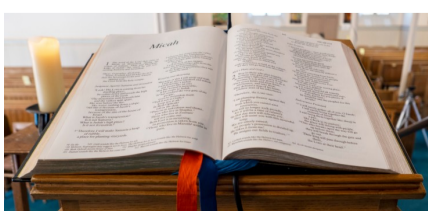
It is only when we open ourselves up to God that the warmth of his love can enter deep into our hearts and restore our souls.

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)*

If anything you have read has prompted questions you would like to discuss, please contact John Young on 664 3067 or jyoung@churchofscotland.org.uk



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

Photographic Credits

Image of Bible on all sheets by Gary Ross

Introduction	Ruth Davies
Station 1	Ruth Davies
Station 2	Ruth Davies
Station 3	Ruth Davies
Station 4	Ruth Davies
Station 5	Umit Bulut on Unsplash
Station 6	Ruth Davies
Station 7	Pavel Tolmachev on Unsplash
Station 8	Ruth Davies